Tuesday, June 9, 2026 No 159 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

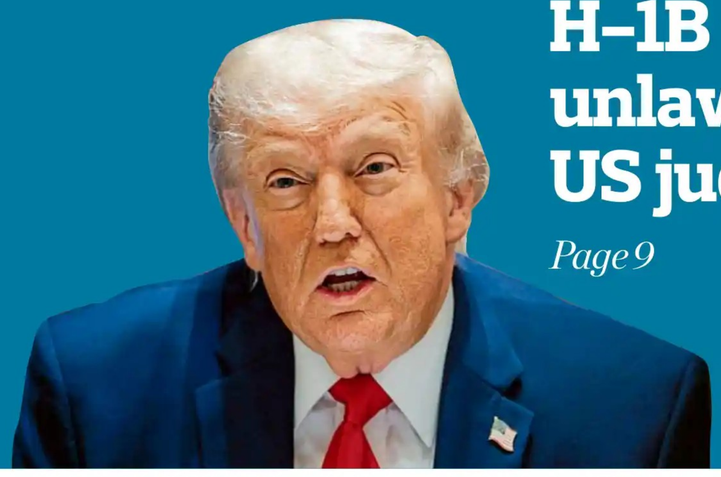
DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Trump's $100,000 H-1B visa fee unlawful: US judge

Page 9



Nation

IAF to carry NEET question papers on Mi-17 helicopters

Nation

I.N.D.I.A bloc vows unity against BJP-RSS

World

7 Indians killed in Dubai accident P.9

Nation

LPG quota under Ujjwala plan cut to 4

LOVED IN 100 COUNTRIES

BAJAJ

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE INDIAN

pulsar 150 & 125

₹3000/- OFF

DARING BIKE DARING OFFER

PRICE STARTING AT ₹ 1 10 714*/-

OFFER ON PULSAR 150 & 125 CF/NEON MODELS*

pulsar DEFINITELY DARING

10 YEAR WARRANTY

BAJAJ SECURE • AMC • ROAD SIDE ASSISTANCE

72198 21111

Flipkart amazon.in

*Terms and Conditions Apply. Savings applicable from 1st June to 30th June 2026 on select models. Applicable offers may vary across models/states. E-comm offers subject to terms of respective e-comm partner. E-comm offers may vary across partners. ESRPs mentioned are of base variant. For more information on the offers, please visit your nearest dealership. ₹2 000/- off on Pulsar 125 neon.

Authorised Dealers For Bajaj Auto Ltd.: Bangalore • Bommanahalli AMBA BAJAJ: 9535411100 • HSR Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 8884333732 • Sarjapur AMBA BAJAJ: 7406688884• BTM Layout AMBA BAJAJ: 9513926221• Madiwala AMBA BAJAJ: 9945000048• Electronic City AMBA BAJAJ: 8971711118• Nayandahalli RV BAJAJ: 6360308373 • Moodalapalya RV BAJAJ: 9740444545 • Kengeri RV BAJAJ: 7353763305 • Giri Nagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763302• Vijaynagar RV BAJAJ: 7353763307• Banashankari POPULAR BAJAJ: 9945111874 • Rajajinagar POPULAR BAJAJ : 6366554001 • Koramangala POPULAR BAJAJ: 9845589079 • Konankunte POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967834 • Ramnagara POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967832 • Kanakpura POPULAR BAJAJ: 9972533890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Channapatna 9901947666 • POPULAR BAJAJ Uttarahalli 9972095890 • POPULAR BAJAJ Gottigere 7760996891 • Yelahanka KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849618 • Mekhri circle KALYANI BAJAJ 8884413593 Mathikere KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884430126 • Chikkaballapura KALYANI BAJAJ: 8884413594 • Devanahalli KALYANI BAJAJ: 9449849624 • Marathahalli KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9036091986 • Kasturba Rd KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060140 • Lalbagh Rd KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060140 • Indiranagar KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060139 • Hennur KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9742155225 • Banaswadi KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060147 • Yeshwanthpur : KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: - 9148752305 • Hesargatta KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035060148 • Whitefield KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 8618840097 • Hoskote KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 9035005075 • Magadi Rd ANANT BAJAJ: 9980009166 • Laggere ANANT BAJAJ: 9900072690 • Hubli CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 9620614106 • Gokul Road branch 9035927969 Gadag CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 7090665850 • Sirsi CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8884645609 • Haveri CHANNAMMA BAJAJ: 8151884422 • Belgaum JAGASHREE BAJAJ: 988690116, MISHA BAJAJ: 9632684225. • Chikodi MISHA BAJAJ: 9632765225 • Gokak MISHA BAJAJ: 9035454225 • Bellary AADI BAJAJ: 9606050250• Raichur SHAH MOBILITY: 9538113444• Koppal I A BAJAJ: 9632512938• Hospet AADI BAJAJ:9731361414 • Hagaribommanahalli AADI BAJAJ: 9900363010• SIRUGUPPA AADI BAJAJ: 9110217558 • Bijapur BIJJARGI BAJAJ (BLDE Road): 7022627411•(Bus Stand Road) 7022627412• Bagalkot BIJJARGI BIKES: 9148448324 • Sindagi BIJJARGI BAJAJ 8861946802• Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • Chitradurga BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Hiriyur BTV BAJAJ: Ph: 8310553554 • Challakere BTV BAJAJ 8310553554 • Davangere JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9343636805, 9663566620 • Harihara JAIN BAJAJ: Ph: 9632300444 • Gulbarga VKG BAJAJ: 9632018700 • Yadgir VKG BAJAJ: 8867776567 • Humnabad VKG BAJAJ 8050889160 • Shimoga SUPREME BAJAJ: 8105000999 • Sagar SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008339799 • Bhadravathi SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008352799 • Chikkamagalur SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008379799 • Tarikere SUPREME BAJAJ: 9008569799 • Hosanagar SUPREME BAJAJ 9731767799 • Anandpura SUPREME BAJAJ 9663501499 • Hassan ARPITA BAJAJ: 9902439255, Arsikere ARPITA BAJAJ: 9964094535 • Kolar KHIVRAJ 9611768292 • KGF KHIVRAJ BAJAJ: 7349507477• Tumkur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040212• Tiptur AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040226 • Sira AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040328 • Kunigal AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7338662706 • Madhugiri AKSHAYA BAJAJ: 7259040340 • BH Road: 7338662687 • Mysore Saraswathipuram POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967801 • Chamarajapuram POPULAR BAJAJ • Vontikoppal STAR BAJAJ: 9886959722 • Mandya POPULAR BAJAJ: 7760967802 • Chamarajanagara PATEL BAJAJ: 9480494888 • Hunsur STAR BAJAJ: 8884374777 • Kushalnagar POPULAR BAJAJ: 7259786276 • Nanjangud STAR BAJAJ: 9742100252 • NR Mohalla STAR BAJAJ: 8095777706 • Balmatta SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973192 • Kuloor SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606237547 • Surathkal SUPREME BAJAJ: 9606973193 • Thokottu 9606702429 • B C Road 7618715273 • Bidar SINDOL BAJAJ 9513226555 • UDUPI SAANVI BAJAJ 8861135225.

Ogilvy 1612

FOCUS ON 'VOTE LOOT' & NEET: Oppn leaders meet after a gap of 30 months, setting aside strains

I.N.D.I.A bloc vows unity against BJP-RSS

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Choosing to set aside strains in their relations, the I.N.D.I.A bloc on Monday vowed to unitedly face the BJP-RSS onslaught. As a first step, the bloc decided to write to the Chief Justice of India on the SIR exercise and alleged "vote loot", demand Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over the NEET-CBSE row and call for an all-party meeting on economic troubles.

The meeting of I.N.D.I.A party chiefs after a gap of 30 months was received positively by leaders, despite some criticising the Congress for its approach towards allies, attacks on partners, and "lack of enthusiasm" in coordinating bloc activities. The concerns were "positively" taken by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

After the meeting, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge unveiled the bloc's programme chart at a joint press conference. He announced that Opposition leaders would meet every two months, with the next meeting scheduled for August in Hyderabad. The exact date will be fixed later. The announcement came amid calls from leaders for a "structure" for the bloc.

As leader after leader raised concerns over electoral malpractices, Kharge — who also took into account suggestions from independent MP Kapil Sibal — said the bloc had agreed to send a letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on "SIR, vote loot and stealing of elections", which will be delivered soon. Leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav and Rahul, also spoke of 'vote chori'.

With the government on the back foot over the CBSE-NEET row and leaders discussing the fallout of the 'cockroach' movement, the bloc "unanimously" resolved to demand Pradhan's resignation. Kharge said the minister had "presided over the betrayal of lakhs of youth" who appeared for the CBSE and NEET exams.

The 22 parties, along with Sibal, who attended the meeting, were also unanimous that the government should immediately convene an all-party meeting to discuss the "precarious economic situation, unemployment, price rise, farmer issues and other people-centric issues".

Kharge said Parliament coordination would continue during the monsoon session, with daily morning meetings in his office.

The leaders did not take questions, even as the meeting came against the backdrop of a section of Trinamool MPs escalating their rebellion against Mamata.

Sources said that the meeting also followed the DMK's announcement that it would not participate, citing the Congress' unceremonious exit from the alliance in Tamil Nadu and its decision to join hands with the TVK.

PROGRAMME CHART

- Bloc to write to CJI on 'vote loot'
- Demands Pradhan's resignation over NEET-CBSE row
- Seeks all-party meet on economic crisis
- Rahul positively takes allies' criticism
- Kharge unveils programme chart, announces bi-monthly meetings; next in Hyderabad

DMK hints at Third Front without Cong to take on BJP

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Reiterating that the party will not be a constituent of any alliance stitched together by the Congress, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Monday hinted at a possible Third Front, saying a "strong and secular" alliance to take on BJP at the national level will emerge soon.

Senior party leader and spokesperson T K S Elangovan said DMK will continue to support issues of national importance raised by outfits other than the Congress at the I.N.D.I.A. bloc meeting. He was categorical that DMK cannot be seen alongside Congress even at the national level. DMK and AAP are the only two parties from the Opposition bloc to have boycotted the I.N.D.I.A. bloc meeting on Monday.

"We are hopeful that a secular alliance that is strong to take on BJP will take shape. Wait and watch," Elangovan said, adding that DMK was not a party to get demoralised over an election defeat.

His comments also subtly conveyed that the party will be open to doing business with other opposition parties except the Congress.

The party's seating arrangement in Parliament has also been changed at its request with DMK Parliamentary Party chairperson Kanimozhi writing to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla in this regard.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party lawmaker Sonia Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and others during the I.N.D.I.A bloc meeting, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

'You can trust me': Rahul reassures allies

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc's meeting on Monday did not end up as a fault-finding exercise, even as some allies questioned the Congress over its attitude towards them. Top leader Rahul Gandhi "wholeheartedly" accepted the criticism and assured them, "you can trust me".

Sources said there was no doubt among leaders about the Congress' primacy in the alliance. National Conference's Omar Abdullah acknowledged that the Congress is the "glue" holding I.N.D.I.A together — a point not disputed by leaders such as Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and CPM's John Brittas.

Brittas, however, raised the issue of Rahul and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge linking the CPM and its leader Pinarayi Vijayan with the BJP during the election campaign. Sources said he told the meeting that if such allegations had come from other leaders, it would not have been a problem. However, he said that when Kharge and Rahul — whom they "respect" — make such remarks, the dimension changes. Stressing that the Congress needs to be more accommodative.

As he got support from CPI General Secretary D Raja, Rahul responded, "I have good relations with Vijayan, I have no personal enmity with him. When I go to the states, I get feedback from the leadership there and raise certain issues. There is nothing personal, and one should take it as a political statement."

RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of the Opposition in LS

"I accept criticism with a smile. My role is to unite you all with love and affection. This is a time for resistance... You can trust me even if I say something (political). There is no compromise against the BJP-RSS.

INSIDE THE MEET

- Rahul says he accepts criticism with a smile
- Omar describes Congress as glue of I.N.D.I.A, urges focus on 2029
- Rahul supports Mamata, says he's 100% sure Bengal poll was robbed
- Tejashwi airs Bihar grievances, calls out state unit's behaviour

RJD leader Tejashwi also aired grievances, pointing to the conduct of the Congress' Bihar unit during the Rajya Sabha polls in April, when the party lost a seat. "You say something here, but it does not go down. Their (state unit) behaviour is strange," Tejashwi said.

Rahul told the leaders, "I accept the criticism with a smile. My role is to unite you all with love and affection. This is a time for resistance... You can trust me even if I say something (political). There is no compromise against the BJP-RSS."

Abdullah called for "collective introspection", stressing that blame could not be placed on any one party.

"We have already achieved something big. The fact is that we are in a room together. The last time we met, there was no minority government here. Let's feel good about this... we have reduced the Modi government to a minority. With that in mind, let's look ahead to 2029 and acknowledge that the Congress is the glue that holds I.N.D.I.A together," he said.

Responding to Mamata's remarks that the West Bengal election was stolen — a view endorsed by Akhilesh Yadav, who said it was wrong to suggest the Trinamool lost when the poll was "robbed" by the Election Commission — Rahul said, "Mamata-di may be 90% sure, Akhilesh and Tejashwi may be 40% sure, but I am 100% sure that the Bengal election was robbed."

BJP ridicules bloc on 'shrinking support'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Monday took a swipe at the Opposition's I.N.D.I.A bloc meeting here, claiming that the alliance was steadily losing both political relevance and the support of its constituents.

Addressing the media after the bloc meeting at the Constitution Club, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra mocked the declining attendance at I.N.D.I.A bloc gatherings, saying the alliance had shrunk so much that its meetings "may soon be held in a car."

"They (the I.N.D.I.A alliance) are scheduled to hold a meeting every two months. So, by the third or fourth meeting, I suspect the meeting will take place inside a car," Patra said.

The BJP leader also targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that his presence had weakened political allies.

"Wherever Rahul is present, no one's fortunes will prosper," Patra said, while referring to the electoral setbacks faced by some Opposition parties.

Amid strains, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was learnt to have asserted that mutual trust and solidarity among opposition parties would be essential if they were to challenge the ruling establishment.

"It is clear that the Congress and INDIA are on one side and on the other side is the BJP-RSS," a leader quoted Rahul as having said in the meeting.

IAF to fly NEET papers for retest

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Almost 10 days after the government said it was exploring the use of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to transport NEET-UG papers for the foolproof conduct of the re-test at a high-level meeting chaired by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the IAF will now provide logistical support using Mi-17 helicopters.

The IAF will carry question paper packets from 18 locations, from where they will be moved to individual exam centres.

Reports have also emerged that paper-setters have been kept under lockdown at undisclosed premises and will be allowed to leave only after the exams conclude.

At a high-level meeting on May 27 between Pradhan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and NTA Director General Abhishek Singh, it was decided to explore the use of the IAF to ensure exam security.

Pradhan later told reporters that while the Home Ministry provides security, the postal department delivers question papers and state governments conduct the exams, indicating his ministry alone could not be held responsible for paper leaks.

A leak had compromised the integrity of the medical entrance exam, forcing its cancellation and prompting a CBI investigation. A retest is scheduled for June 21.

CBSE closes re-check window, clarifies on glitch complaints

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The CBSE's website for re-evaluation closed even as students complained of glitches. The Board said on Monday that over 1.6 lakh students had applied.

CBSE, in a post on X, said the application window for verification and re-evaluation was functional between June 2 and June 7 under the "supervision and management" of government technical agencies and teams from the IITs, despite cyber attacks.

"During the above application period, more than 1.6 lakh candidates successfully submitted requests pertaining to over 3.8 lakh answer books...

"The system remained under continuous monitoring by dedicated cybersecurity teams throughout the operational period to prevent malicious traffic and cyber threats...," it said.

In a post on X on May 26, CBSE had said that 4.04 lakh students applied for 11.31 lakh answer sheets.

Subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala scheme cut to 4 per year

Govt says revised annual quota matches average usage

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has reduced the annual quota of subsidised cooking gas (LPG) cylinders for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries from nine to four, aligning it with average household consumption levels.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Additional Secretary Praveen Mal Khanooja announced the decision on Monday.

Under the flagship scheme launched in May 2016, adult women from poor households receive deposit-free LPG connections. Beneficiaries were originally entitled to 12 subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders annually, which was cut to nine last year.

The government provides a targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2-kg cylinder, credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. Following the latest price revision on June 7, the retail price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in Delhi has risen to Rs 942. After the subsidy, PMUY beneficiaries pay Rs 642 per cylinder.

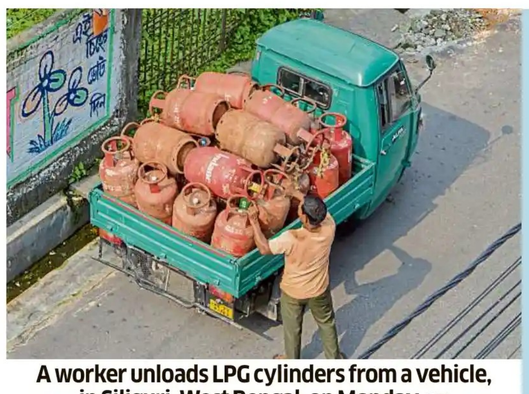
The Rs 29-per-cylinder price increase works out to roughly Re 1 per day. For a typical family of five, this translates to about 20 paisa per day, officials noted.

Despite recent hikes, Indian households continue to enjoy among the lowest cooking gas prices globally, with international LPG prices surging due to the West Asia crisis.

The cost of supplying a domestic LPG cylinder has now crossed Rs 1,600, while beneficiaries effectively receive support of around Rs 1,000 per cylinder compared to the government's supply cost.

The Saudi Contract Price, the global benchmark for LPG, has risen about 46% since February following supply disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz.

Since 2022, the government has provided Rs 52,000 crore in LPG subsidies. Oil companies continue to incur under-recoveries of about Rs 700 per 14.2-kg domestic cylinder. They are also losing Rs 6 per litre on petrol and around Rs 30 per litre on diesel. Cumulatively, under-recoveries across fuels have prompted the recent price adjustments, officials said.



A worker unloads LPG cylinders from a vehicle, in Siliguri, West Bengal, on Monday. PTI

Cooking gas woes

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwal Yojana entitlement reduced from nine to four per year

Offered deposit-free LPG connections to poor women

Scheme was launched in 2016

GOVT SAYS INDIAN HOUSEHOLDS STILL ENJOY LOWEST COOKING GAS PRICES GLOBALLY

Kerala's free bus travel for women hits fiscal roadblock

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Congress government's free bus ride scheme for women in Kerala is likely to be restricted to ordinary services of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), given the state's acute financial crunch.

Transport Minister CP John told reporters that extending the scheme to all categories of buses would cost around Rs 1,300 crore annually, while limiting it to ordinary services would reduce the expense to Rs 712 crore. A decision on the matter will be taken at a Cabinet meeting. The KSRTC is not in a position to bear the burden, he added.

The minister also announced that the scheme will be extended to all women from June 15.

Free bus travel for women was one of the five guarantees announced by the Congress during the Assembly election campaign.

The promise was seen as a key factor in influencing women voters, particularly those from low-income groups who rely on public transport for daily commuting.

The maiden Cabinet meeting of the VD Satheesan government decided to implement the scheme.

However, the state's acute financial crunch has emerged as a major challenge. The KSRTC is already running at a loss and survives on government support of about Rs 125 crore every month to pay salaries and pensions.

The transport minister said that since the KSRTC is already in a deep financial crisis, free travel for women can be implemented only with government support.

The recently released white paper on state finances had cautioned against public sector undertakings like the KSRTC draining the state exchequer.

A government move to restrict the scheme to ordinary buses could invite criticism from Opposition parties.

US strikes vessel off Oman; 24 Indian crew rescued

NEW DELHI, DHNS: All 24 Indian crew members were safely rescued by Omani authorities on Monday after a fire broke out aboard the Madagascar-flagged oil tanker MT Marivex in the Gulf of Oman, hours after the US military said it struck the vessel with a precision munition for allegedly violating a blockade of Iranian ports.

The Indian Embassy in Muscat thanked Omani rescuers for their swift action. "We are thankful to the Omani authorities for their swift response and rescue of all the 24 crew members of Indian nationality , onboard MT Marivex, and ensuring their safety [sic]," the embassy said on X.

The vessel, which was unladen and in ballast condition, reported a fire around 1.30 pm IST south of the Strait of Hormuz, approximately 15 nautical miles off the Omani coast while heading toward the port of Duqm. The Forward Seamen's Union of India issued an urgent alert after the crew sought help at coordinates 20°57.07N 059°08.13E.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed it disabled the tanker after it allegedly violated the blockade of Iran's ports and ignored directions from US forces. An F/A-18 Super Hornet from USS Abraham Lincoln fired a precision munition into the ship's engineering and steering spaces, CENTCOM said.

"Marivex is no longer sailing to Iran," the US military stated, adding that seven non-compliant vessels had been disabled since the blockade began on April 13.

Indian officials confirmed the fire incident and crew safety, but refused to comment on the US claim or whether the ship was hit by a projectile.

Shipping Ministry Director Opesh Kumar Sharma said the ministry was coordinating with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Navy, and the ship's owners to verify facts.

The Shipping Ministry said the vessel — an oil tanker — was not Indian-owned. "There were only Indian seafarers on board," Sharma noted.

A drone view of vessels anchored in the Strait of Hormuz as seen from Musandam, Oman. REUTERS

WATER WORKS

Kerala govt prepares to tap blue-economy potential

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala is gearing up to tap the state's blue-economy potential by making use of key advantages like the two international seaports, 17 non-major ports, the around-600-km coastline, and the inland-waterway network comprising three national waterways.

A host of projects in the blue-economy sector are expected in the new government's maiden budget, to be presented by Chief Minister V D Satheesan on June 19.

"As part of its vision to develop 'Puthuyuga Keralam' (a new-age Kerala), the UDF government dreams at making Kerala a port city by leveraging key favourable factors like an international port, proximity to international shipping channel, coastline, Cochin Shipyard, rich marine resources, backwaters, and inland waterways," said Satheesan in an article written in connection with World Ocean Day on June 8.

The Vizhinjam seaport could become a sustainable port development model of South Asia. It has many favourable factors like proximity to the global shipping channel and natural depth to accommodate large ships, said Satheesan, who holds the ports portfolio.

The key areas the UDF government plans to focus on include fishing, aquaculture, marine technology, power generation from the sea, logistics, ship manufacturing, export processing, cruise tourism, maritime university, and researchers in the field.

Thrust would be given on challenges like marine pollution and climate change, said the CM.

He added that the government aims to reroute 50% of the existing road transport through the sea, and subsequently take up initiatives like cruise-shipping and tourism promotion by connecting the sea and the backwaters.

Haridwar seers declare war on 'veg biryani'; 'kebabs' next

HARIDWAR, PTI: A group of seers, led by the Akhand Parshuram Akhada, has launched a campaign in Uttarakhand's Haridwar to ban the sale of food under the name "veg biryani".

The group is demanding that shopkeepers and street vendors replace the term with "veg pulao".

Volunteers are pasting "veg pulao" stickers over the word "veg biryani" on signboards and street carts across the town, asserting that the term carries "non-vegetarian connotations" that hurt the religious sentiments of devotees.

Pandit Adheer Kaushik, president of the Akhand Parshuram Akhada, said that under the local municipal body bylaws, the sale and consumption of meat, liquor and eggs is prohibited in certain areas of Haridwar.

"Biryani is essentially a non-vegetarian dish. Even if local shopkeepers do not use meat, the word itself hurts the sentiments of vegetarians," Kaushik said.

He added that dishes like "kebab" and "chaap" are also associated with non-vegetarian cuisine, and the next phase of their campaign will target these names. The organisation has written to the municipal commissioner requesting that hotels and restaurants remove these words from their menus.

While there is no pan-city ban on meat, pre-independence bylaws prohibit its sale in the main areas, including Kankhal and Har Ki Pauri.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 No 159 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India complete demolition job

Suthar, Sundar fashion innings and 300-run win over Afghans

Page 13

Planned to stay away from politics if denied CM post: Parameshwara

Page 4

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Bharat

Every moment of whose life symbolises an unwavering commitment to service and national interest, and for whom public welfare is a lifelong mission, under the leadership of such **Seva-Vrati Narendra Modi Ji,** Bharat is experiencing continuous progress, and the entire nation is saying....

12 Saal *Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-kalyan ke*

» Welfare of the Poor

- **Free monthly ration** for **81+ crore people**
- **4+ crore PM Awas houses, 10.5+ crore Ujjwala LPG connections** and **12+ crore toilets** made life easier

» Youth Empowerment

- **Skill training** for nearly **2 crore** youth
- **₹40 lakh crore MUDRA Loan**
- **2.2 lakh startups** across the country
- **10,000+ Atal Tinkering Labs** promoting innovation

» Farmers' Welfare

- **₹4.3 lakh crore** disbursed under PM-KISAN
- **4+ crore** farmers received **₹2 lakh crore crop insurance** coverage
- Crops worth **₹26+ lakh crore** procured at **MSP**
- **Kisan Credit Cards** provided to **8 crore farmers**

» Women Empowerment

- **32+ crore Jan Dhan accounts** opened for women
- **Permanent commission** for women in the armed forces
- **3+ crore Lakhpati Didis**
- **10 crore** rural women empowered through **91+ lakh Self Help Groups**

» Healthcare

- **Free treatment** up to **₹5 lakh** for senior citizens aged **70+**
- **Ayushman Bharat** coverage for **60+ crore** people
- Medicines at discounts of up to **90%** through **19,000+ Jan Aushadhi Kendras** nationwide

» Middle Class

- Annual income up to **₹12.75 lakh tax-free**
- Affordable air travel for **1.6+ crore** passengers under the **UDAN** Scheme
- **MBBS** seats increased by 151% to nearly **1.3 lakh**

» Nation Building

- **Metro network** spanning **1,100+ km** across **26** cities
- **164 Vande Bharat trains** running across the country
- **Major infrastructure projects built,** including Atal Setu, Sudarshan Setu, Chenab Rail Bridge, Bogibeel Bridge and Pamban Sea Bridge
- Number of **airports** increased from 74 to **164**

» Nation First

- Record **defence exports** worth nearly **₹38,400 crore**
- Dream of a **Naxal-free India** becomes a reality, with a **strong crackdown** on terrorism
- Freedom from the colonial mindset – Rajpath became **Kartavya Path**, and a **new Naval Ensign** inspired by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**

» Virasat aur Vikas

- Construction of the **grand Ram Temple** in Ayodhya
- **Transformation** of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Mahakal Mahalok and Kedarnath Dham

CBC 46101/13/0005/2627

Two bike-borne men punch, rob woman of chain

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 44-year-old woman was assaulted and robbed of her 50-gram gold mangalsutra worth Rs 5 lakh by two unidentified bike-borne men in Madanayakanahalli on the city's northern outskirts on Friday.

Mamatha M, a gardener from Dasanapura, was riding her scooter to look for work when two men on a motorcycle brushed against her vehicle twice in an apparent attempt to cause an accident around 11.45 am.

When she questioned them for repeatedly hitting her scooter, one of the men punched her in the face. The pillion rider then pushed her to the ground and snatched her mangalsutra before fleeing. The suspects also threatened her to prevent her from raising an alarm.

Mamatha sustained minor injuries to her leg and neck. She contacted her husband, who accompanied her to the police station to lodge a complaint.

Police said she was in shock during the attack and could not note the motorcycle's registration number. She told the police that one of the suspects was wearing a helmet while the other had partially covered his face.

Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case, but no clues have been established so far as there are no CCTV cameras in the locality.

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

KIA customs seize record 520 kg hydroponic ganja in two months

Bangkok link dominates such smuggling cases at city airport

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) seized 520.82 kg of hydroponic ganja in the last two months alone, accounting for more than half of the total quantity seized in 2025-26.

In 2025-26, customs authorities seized 1,005.498 kg of hydroponic ganja worth around Rs 700 crore and arrested 163 individuals in 141 cases.

Since April, the department has seized 520.82 kg of the contraband valued at Rs 182.3 crore and arrested 64 people in 52 cases, according to data shared by customs officials.

Officials attributed the recent spike in cases to a change in smuggling tactics, with traffickers increasingly transporting smaller quantities across multiple trips to avoid harsher punishment under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

"People bringing in weed are part of larger syndicates and do not operate individually. They have studied the law and understand enforcement patterns.

"Under the NDPS Act, punishment for hydroponic ganja depends on the quantity seized. Smuggling 20 kg or more is classified as a commercial quantity and attracts a minimum prison term of 10 years, which can extend to 20 years, besides fines.

"Quantities between 1 kg and 20 kg do not fall under the commercial category and can attract imprisonment of up to 10 years. Smugglers are attempting to exploit this distinction," an official told *DH*.

The largest consignment seized since April weighed 52.68 kg and was valued at Rs 18.43 crore. It was smuggled by a group of three passengers on May 1.

In contrast, the most recent seizure, made earlier this month, involved 5 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 1.75 crore. All hydroponic ganja seizures on commercial flights this year have been linked to Bangkok.

Courier service from US

May also witnessed a rare case of hydroponic ganja being smuggled into Bengaluru from the United States through a courier service.

"When it comes to weed, carriers rarely conceal it. They transport it in luggage or handbags in air-tight and moisture-proof packets that cannot be detected even by K9 units. The packaging is highly professional. We rely heavily on passenger profiling to identify suspects. In many cases, carriers collect the contraband in Bangkok, but fly in from another Southeast Asian city or transit through Gulf countries. We have identified these patterns and intensified our enforcement," the official said.

Customs authorities deploy 12 to 15 officers at the airport round the clock and expect smuggling attempts to decline in the coming months.

"The Thai government has introduced stricter regulations and is cracking down on foreigners without proper documentation. While the measures are not aimed at the drug trade, they are likely to force carriers to lie low for at least a few months," the official added.

So far, in 2025-26, customs authorities have reported no fresh seizures involving other narcotic substances. During the financial year, the department made two arrests in cocaine-smuggling cases and one arrest related to hashish smuggling.

A weed consignment seized at the city airport. PHOTO: CUSTOMS

Why hydroponic ganja?

Hydroponic ganja is cultivated in nutrient-rich water rather than soil. It is often considered a premium variety because of its consistent quality, appearance and potency.

According to customs officials, this method of cultivation is highly popular in Thailand, from where the drug is illegally exported to several countries across the world.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL

"Hydroponic ganja is being smuggled in highly professional packaging (air-tight and moisture-proof) that can evade detection even by K9 units, with carriers often collecting consignments in Bangkok and using indirect routes through Southeast Asia and the Gulf to avoid detection.

Rs 3.57-crore hydroponic ganja seized from flyer

BENGALURU, DHNS: Customs officials seized 10.20 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at approximately Rs 3.57 crore from a passenger who arrived from Bangkok at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on June 5.

The contraband was concealed in the passenger's checked-in baggage and was detected during a customs inspection, an official said.

The passenger had arrived on IndiGo flight 6E 1056 from Bangkok.

Following the seizure, the passenger, identified as Akshay Pavithran, 32, was arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Investigations are underway to ascertain the source of the narcotics and identify possible links to larger drug-trafficking networks.

The seizure comes amid intensified efforts by customs authorities to curb the smuggling of narcotic substances through international airports.

BDA withdraws request to axe 184 trees in HSR Layout

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a relief for residents of HSR Layout, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has withdrawn its application seeking permission to cut down 184 trees in the locality, stating that the proposal was submitted by an executive engineer without authorisation from the competent authority.

However, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) portal has not withdrawn the public notice yet.

In a letter to the GBA's Deputy Conservator of Forests, BDA Commissioner Major P Manivannan requested the Forest Department to treat the earlier application for tree felling as withdrawn.

The letter also mentions that the agency, which is redeveloping the BDA complex, has been directed to redesign its plan to protect all the trees.

The move comes days after *DH* reported large-scale felling of trees situated in the peripheral areas of the BDA complex, which is also a setback area where no construction is allowed.

DH also reported construction activity on the site in violation of building norms.

The executive engineer had approached the Forest Department seeking permission to remove trees for development works without obtaining the necessary approvals from senior authorities within the BDA.

Following an internal review, the authority concluded that the request had not followed due process.

The BDA said it had taken note of public objections and concerns raised by residents regarding the proposed tree felling. Following withdrawal of the application, several netizens appreciated the BDA commissioner for the decision.

A green canopy frames the BDA complex in HSR Layout, now leased to a private firm for commercial development.
DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

State-level legal awareness workshop: Inauguration by Justice B Veerappa, H Shashidhar Shetty, Sachin Ghorpade, Khushi Kushalappa, Mohan Rao Nalavade; State Legal Services Authority, Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Organisation; NGO Hall, State Government Employees Association, Cubbon Park; 10 am.

Unity Day of Oppressed Communities: Indira Krishnappa, Rachappa Shivamogga, Subbu Holeyar, Muninanjappa Maragondanahalli, Kaikondrahalli Narayanaswamy, Nirmala; Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti; Gandhi Bhavan, Sivananda Circle; 11 am.

B Krishnappa's 88th birthday celebration: 'Mookanayaka' daily newspaper launch; G Parameshwara, PM Narendraswamy, MC Narayana; Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (Bhimavad); Town Hall; 11.30 am.

'Political Saint Shantaveri Gopalagowda' book release: BR Patil, Shudra Srinivas, KR Ramesh Kumar, Banjagere Jayaprakash, TN Seetharam; Kannada Janashakti Kendra, Shantaveri Gopalagowda Samajwadi Pratishthan, National College, Basavanagudi; 5 pm.

Youth Music Festival: MV Satyanarayana, Carnatic Music; Bangalore Gayana Samaj, Krishnarajendra Road; 5.15 pm.

26th Year Discourse: Discourse on the topic of 'Vidura Niti'; Kadoor Sridharacharya; Cultural Centre, Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust, Jayanagar 9th Block; from 6.30 pm onwards.

International Archives Week: Cinema Screening; Bharatiya Kala Pratishthan (IFA); 'Apoorva', 4th Cross, Raj Mahal 4th Phase, Sanjaynagar; 6.30 pm.

CULTURAL

'Shri Krishna Sandhana' mythological drama performance: Kallur Srinivas, Muniraju Appaji Nagenahalli, M Jagadish Gowda; Srikumararama Kala Trust, Ravindra Kalakshetra; 11.30 am.

'Odyssey' Play Screening: Written by Homer; Translated and directed by Yadunandana Avaram, Team: Ranga Sopana; Ranga Shankara; 7.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.6°C
Minimum	21.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	11 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	57%
Sunset (Jun 9)	6:45 pm
Sunrise (Jun 10)	5:53 am
Moonrise	12:04 am
Moonset	12:14 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

High court upholds BWSSB's right to lay sewage lines on private property

No compensation: Court on erosion claim under 2013 Act

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has held that under the BWSSB Act, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has the statutory authority to lay and maintain sewerage pipelines on private properties, and landowners are not automatically entitled to compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act.

"Such authority, however, remains subject to strict compliance with the statutory safeguards, including observance of procedural requirements, minimisation of injury, and payment of compensation for damage or injurious affection," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

The ruling came while disposing of petitions filed by two landowners seeking compensation for the use of their properties by the BWSSB.

One petitioner sought compensation for soil erosion allegedly caused to his land in Hennur village, while the other claimed compensation under the 2013 Act for the laying of sewerage pipelines on his land in Nagawara without his consent.

The BWSSB derives its authority from Sections 39 (power to lay mains), 76 (prohibition on construction over sewers without permission), 77 (rights of user of property), and 92 (power to enter adjoining land in relation to works) of the BWSSB Act.

The petitioners argued that the incorporation of Section 127A, which provides a mechanism for land acquisition, indicates that whenever private land is required for laying water mains or sewerage pipelines, the land must be acquired in accordance with law. They contended that using private property without acquisition amounts to deprivation of property without authority of law.

Justice Govindaraj said mere restrictions on, or inconvenience to, a landowner do not amount to compulsory acquisition attracting mandatory acquisition proceedings and market-value compensation under the 2013 Act in all cases.

He noted that acquisition ordinarily results in the transfer of title or extinguishment of ownership rights, whereas a right of user imposes only a limited statutory burden while preserving ownership with the landowner.

"Sections 39, 76, 77 and 92 of the BWSSB Act confer statutory authority upon the Board to lay and maintain sewerage pipelines over, under, along or across private property without acquisition of ownership, where only a limited right of user is required. Such authority, however, remains subject to strict compliance with the statutory safeguards, including observance of procedural requirements, minimisation of injury, and payment of compensation for damage or injurious affection. Where the extent of interference substantially exceeds a limited right of user and effectively results in deprivation of the ordinary enjoyment of the property, the Board would be required to proceed under Section 127A," the court said.

In the present cases, the court directed the BWSSB to assess, determine and pay compensation, if any, to the petitioners for actual damage caused to their properties.

BDA to plant 15 lakh saplings on June 27, eyes Guinness Record

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a major push to enhance the city's green cover, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has begun preparations to plant 15 lakh saplings across Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and other BDA-developed layouts on June 27, marking the birth anniversary of Bengaluru's founder, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda.

NA Haris

Saplings will also be planted along the newly constructed Major Arterial Road connecting Mysuru Road and Magadi Road.

Under the initiative, 5 lakh saplings will be planted in Kempegowda Layout, while the remaining 10 lakh will be distributed across other BDA layouts, including Banashankari 6th Stage, as well as along major roads across the city.

The plantation drive will feature a wide range of indigenous and medicinal species, including mango, jackfruit, neem and sapota, along with nearly 350 varieties of native medicinal plants.

The initiative is guided by the concept of "One House, One Medicinal Plant", aimed at promoting greenery and biodiversity in residential areas, officials said in a statement.

"On the directions of Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, we are undertaking a massive plantation drive across BDA-developed layouts, including Kempegowda Layout and Banashankari 6th Stage, with a target of planting 15 lakh saplings on Kempegowda Jayanti. We are confident of achieving a Guinness World Record through this initiative," BDA Chairman and Shanthinagar MLA NA Haris said.

Stipend for law graduates

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Backward Classes Welfare has invited applications from eligible law graduates belonging to Category-I, 2A, 3A and 3B communities from the Bengaluru Urban district for the grant of a training stipend for the year 2026–27.

Filled-in applications must be submitted by 4.30 pm on July 10.

For more information, candidates may contact 080-22867628 or email dobcm-bengaluruurban1@gmail.com, said an official release.

Two killed in accidents on Hebbal flyover, Seshadripuram

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two men lost their lives in separate road accidents in the city late Sunday night and early Monday morning, police said.

In the first incident, 36-year-old Ravikumar, a resident of Hebbal who worked as a plumber, died after his motorcycle was hit by a luggage autorickshaw near Jutka Stand in Seshadripuram.

According to the Seshadripuram traffic police, the accident occurred around 11 pm when the speeding luggage autorickshaw, allegedly being driven recklessly, veered into the opposite lane and collided head-on with Ravikumar's motorcycle. The impact threw him onto the road, causing severe head injuries. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, but succumbed to his injuries.

The Seshadripuram traffic police have registered a case against the autorickshaw driver and launched an investigation.

In a separate accident in the early hours of Monday, a 26-year-old driver from Rajasthan was killed and his co-passenger injured after their Mahindra Bolero rammed into the rear of a moving truck on the Hebbal flyover.

The Hebbal traffic police have registered a case and are investigating the exact circumstances of the accident, including whether speeding or driver fatigue contributed to the crash.

CCB arrests two history-sheeters in arms conspiracy raid operation

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police's Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Monday arrested two history-sheeters who were evading authorities.

The arrested are Puneeth SV and Shivakumar alias 'Auto' Shiva.

Acting on information that more than 10 history-sheeters possessed deadly weapons and conspired to commit offences, CCB officials raided the houses of the duo on June 7, leading to the arrests.

The men were wanted for offences under the Arms Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

They were taken into custody, interrogated and produced before the Varthur police for further action.

"No deadly weapons were recovered during the raid," the CCB said.

In a separate investigation, the CCB arrested Shahid Pasha alias 'Dakkar' Shahid, a history-sheeter at the KG Halli police station.

"Several criminal cases against him were under trial, and because he repeatedly failed to appear before the court on the dates of hearing, the court had issued a proclamation and arrest warrant against him.

Pasha was handed over to the KG Halli police on June 5 for further legal action, and a case was also registered.

"During the inquiry, it was found that more than 20 criminal cases had been registered against him in various police stations across Bengaluru. He admitted that he had failed to appear before the court in connection with three pending cases," the CCB said.

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Domlur road white-topped around standing electricity pole, raising safety concerns

BENGALURU, DHNS

Authorities have left an electricity pole standing in the middle of a newly white-topped road in Domlur, drawing disbelief from residents and motorists.

Rather than shifting the obstruction before laying the concrete, civic workers white-topped the road around the standing pole, mounted a junction box next to it and built a concrete divider around the entire setup.

The work, which came to light after a local resident shared images of the site on X, has narrowed the usable driving space on an already tight stretch.

For months, commuters on this stretch in Domlur had complained about the poorly positioned utility pole obstructing vehicular movement.

When civic workers arrived to white-top and upgrade the lane, residents hoped the bottleneck would finally be addressed by shifting the pole to the edge of the road.

"They made the road worse instead of better," said a regular commuter in the area.

"It makes no sense. They just blocked the road permanently."

Residents say the new setup is dangerous, particularly at night. The concrete divider carries no reflective markings or illumination, leaving two-wheeler riders at risk of riding into it in the dark.

An executive engineer from the Bengaluru East City Corporation said the pole would be removed and the road restored by Tuesday.

"We recognise the safety hazard and have scheduled a coordinated operation with Bescom tomorrow to remove the pole and re-level the road," he said.

A five-lamp streetlight pole stranded in the middle of Professor UR Rao Road, Domlur, sits on a busy curve, posing a serious hazard to motorists.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

"We recognise the safety hazard and have scheduled a coordinated operation with Bescom tomorrow to remove the pole and re-level the road.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Bengaluru East City Corporation

Why is it dangerous?

- Hidden obstacle raises crash risk
- Narrowed road space increases collision chances
- Poor visibility makes it dangerous at night

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Keep registration documents ready, Home Minister Priyank tells RSS

Page 3

Flames erupt after a molten iron spill in the Vizag steel plant. PTI

9 dead in Vizag steel plant as molten metal falls on workers

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

At least nine workers were killed and 11 others injured after molten metal fell on them at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL)'s Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Monday evening, officials said.

According to sources, the accident occurred during the transportation of molten steel at approximately 1,600 degrees Celsius. An explosion ruptured the container, triggering a massive leak of molten metal that fell on the workers.

The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals. Approximately 20 workers were on duty at the time of the incident, said sources.

Several fire engines and dozens of firefighters were pressed into service to bring the blaze under control.

▸ Vizag, Page 5

11.6-km flyover: B'luru gets yet another decongestion plan

To link Old Madras Rd & Silk Board; could reshape posh Indiranagar

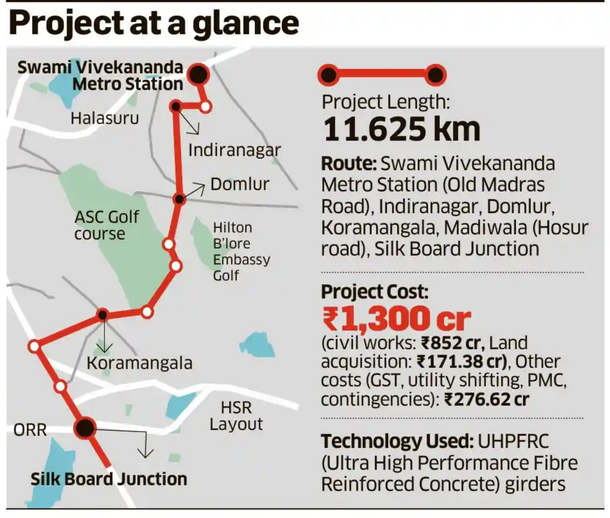
NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A proposed Rs 1,300-crore flyover linking the SV Road metro station on Old Madras Road to Silk Board Junction on Hosur Road could dramatically alter the character of Indiranagar, the tony Bengaluru neighbourhood known for its glitzy cafes and tree-lined avenues.

Spanning 11.62 km, the elevated corridor will pass through Indiranagar's 80 Feet Road, CMH Road and 100 Feet Road before stretching towards Madiwala, according to the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The DPR, prepared by the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), has proposed the flyover to ease traffic between eastern and southern Bengaluru.

Project at a glance



Project Length:
11.625 km

Route: Swami Vivekananda Metro Station (Old Madras Road), Indiranagar, Domlur, Koramangala, Madiwala (Hosur road), Silk Board Junction

Project Cost:
₹1,300 cr
(civil works: **₹852 cr,** Land acquisition: **₹171.38 cr)**, Other costs (GST, utility shifting, PMC, contingencies): **₹276.62 cr**

Technology Used: UHPFRC (Ultra High Performance Fibre Reinforced Concrete) girders

The project — conceptualised to complement the under-construction Ejipura flyover — is among the 11 new flyovers approved by the state government in April this year.

However, the alignment is set to run along stretches of white-topped roads, known for their mature avenue trees and relatively pedestrian-friendly environment.

The route traverses some of the most popular residential and commercial neighbourhoods.

▸ Flyover, Page 5

KBG yet to take charge

Four days after being given the Bengaluru development portfolio, Krishna Byre Gowda is yet to formally assume charge. Sources said he was awaiting clarity on the portfolio's scope, particularly since the CM would retain the BDA and the BMRDA.
Details on Page 4

Another jolt for Didi: 20 TMC MPs write to Speaker, back NDA

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The upheaval within the Trinamool Congress reached Parliament on Monday as several of its members in the Lok Sabha declared support for the ruling coalition led by BJP, less than a week after a similar coup by almost 58 of the 80 legislators of Mamata Banerjee's party in the West Bengal Assembly.

At least 17 of the 28 TMC members in the Lok Sabha jumped onto the rebel bandwagon. They are in touch with at least three more.

Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a four-term member of the Lok Sabha, emerged as the face of the rebellion within the TMC in the lower House of Parliament.

She, however, claimed that at least 20 Trinamool members in the Lok Sabha decided to support the ruling National Democratic Alliance led by the BJP.

Mamata Banerjee

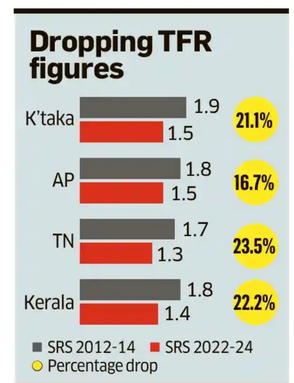
The rebellion spread to the Rajya Sabha, too, with the veteran TMC parliamentarian, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, resigning as a member of the upper House of Parliament. The party's another newly elected Rajya Sabha member is also likely to quit.

▸ TMC, Page 5

State's fertility rate falls 21% in decade; steeper in villages

K'taka TFR still high in South; shrinking population a worry

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS



India average TFR:
2012-14: **2.3**
2022-24: **1.9**

The average Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Karnataka fell by nearly 21% in just a decade — between 2012-14 and 2022-24 — according to data from the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) Statistical Report 2024 published recently.

While India's average TFR dropped by 17% from 2.3 to 1.9 since 2012-14, most southern states were well below the national average and most northern states above it.

TFR measures the average number of children a woman would have over her lifetime. The replacement-level TFR is 2.1, at which a population replaces itself with the next generation.

Karnataka's TFR fell from 1.9 to 1.5, a decline of 21%. Andhra Pradesh's TFR fell to 1.5, Kerala's 1.3 and Tamil Nadu's 1.4. Delhi saw the steepest fall with its TFR declining by as much as 30%, from 1.7 to just 1.2.

Karnataka's rural TFR fell more steeply — from 2 to 1.6 — compared to the fall in its urban TFR — from 1.7 to 1.4.

Experts say such declining fertility rates could shrink population over time and increase the elderly population.

"Over the years, the population will shrink, but the bigger problem is that the young population and those in the workforce will decline while the elderly population will increase. Social security will become a problem and those in the marriageable age will find it difficult to get a match," said Dr C M Lakshmana, Professor at the Population Research Centre at the Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru.

Declining TFRs are forcing governments to take corrective measures.

▸ TFR, Page 5

End of Gowda's parliamentary stint?

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the BJP nominating Prof M Nagaraja for its lone Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka, JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda's 35-year parliamentary run may be nearing its end. Unless the BJP fileds him from another state, his term, ending later this month, could mark the close of an era.

The pick signals the BJP's preference for fresh faces over legacy allies. Despite speculation around Sumalatha Ambareesh, D V Sadananda Gowda and Nirmal Kumar Surana, the party chose a low-profile academic, sidestepping the JD(S) founder.

AICC Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala charged the BJP with "humiliating" a former PM and alleged that Union minister and Gowda's son H D Kumaraswamy was "sticking" to his chair. He also recalled Congress' support to elect Gowda to the Rajya Sabha in 2020.

State BJP chief B Y Vijayendra said, "Deve Gowda ji has strengthened Modi's hands and supported the NDA. BJP holds him in high regard. No decision was taken by state leaders but by the national leadership keeping in mind the political situation."

▸ Gowda, Page 5

Iran, Israel halt hostilities for now

TEHRAN, AFP: Iran and Israel said on Monday that hostilities between them had halted, after the two countries exchanged strikes that threatened to reignite the war. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the "fire on that front is contained" hours after Tehran said it had stopped its military action.

Details on Page 9

SHETH BROTHERS
"KAYAM TABLET MADE ME ACTIVE AGAIN"
Since I run a small grocery store, I'm always on my feet, lifting heavy sacks of rice and helping customers. But constipation made it so hard. Customers would sometimes see me struggling, and I'd feel so embarrassed. And I was scared of eating, always worried about how my stomach could react.
One day, a friend suggested I take Kayam Tablet. And in a few days, things changed. Now I can work, eat and be active without pain. The Ayurvedic medicine Kayam, restored harmony in my life.
AYURVEDIC
KAYAM TABLET
AVAILABLE AT MEDICAL SHOPS AND AYURVEDIC STORES
FEEDBACK: CONTACT@KAYAMCHURNA.COM
AVAILABLE NOW
amazon 1mg
SCAN TO BUY
AYURVEDIC KAYAM TABLET SHETH BROS.

B.N.M. Institute of Technology
An Autonomous Institution Under VTU, Approved by AICTE
27th Cross, 12th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 070
CET Code : E-107
COMEDK Code : E-015
ADMISSIONS OPEN
B.E.
» Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
» Computer Science and Engineering
» Electronics & Communication Engineering
» Electrical and Electronics Engineering
» Information Science and Engineering
» Mechanical Engineering
M.Tech.
» Computer Science & Engineering
» VLSI Design & Embedded Systems
MBA
» Master of Business Administration
BNMIT ADVANTAGE
Contemporary curriculum with relevance to industry requirements.
Skill based & project based learning techniques to produce industry ready manpower.
Industry collaborations with internship to all students.
Highest number of Hackathons won including Smart India Hackathon
Entrepreneurship development is encouraged and supported with state-of-the-art incubation facilities.
PLACEMENT
BNMIT takes pride in offering exceptional placement opportunities, with the highest salary packages reaching impressive levels year after year.
Highest placements in leading multinational companies, with top offers reflecting the institute's strong academic rigor, industry alignment, and skill development initiatives.
Commitment to nurturing industry-ready graduates and providing them with platforms to achieve remarkable career success.
NBA
NAAC
QS I-GAUGE DIAMOND
All India 8th RANK Top 100 Private Engineering Institutes - IIRF 2025
All India 34th RANK Top 100 Private Engineering College - Data Quest 2026
All India 22nd RANK Top 125 Private Engineering Institutes - Times Survey 2025
All India 23rd RANK Top 50 Private Engineering Institutes - Academic Insights Survey 2025
Website
Location
8867754415 / 17, 9606009791 / 8867703274 / 75
Email: bnmitprincipal@gmail.com

Official held for Rs 5,000 bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lokayukta police arrested an official from the Department of Legal Metrology on Monday for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 5,000.

Police said a complainant from RS Palya reported that Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Bengaluru, Vanishree MS demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 to approve a licence for mobile accessories packaging.

Based on the complaint, Lokayukta police led by Deputy Superintendent of Police-8 Anil Kumar HR arrested the suspect as she accepted Rs 5,000.

The suspect was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Further investigation is underway, officials said.

Men with erectile dysfunction avoid doctors, self-medicate, says study

Taboo, fear of judgment push patients away

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A retrospective cross-sectional study published in the 'International Journal of Sexual Health' has found that men over 50 with erectile dysfunction are more likely to self-diagnose and self-medicate rather than consult a doctor.

The study found significant differences in self-medication prevalence across age groups, relationship status, performance anxiety, and Clinical Global Impressions-Severity (CGI-S) scale categories.

The CGI-S scale is a seven-point clinician-rated tool that measures the severity of a patient's illness, ranging from one (normal, not at all ill) to seven (among the most extremely ill patients).

Among the groups most likely to self-medicate were 16.8% of men aged above 50, 16.2% of men living apart from their spouses, and 16.5% of men rated as mildly ill on the CGI-S scale.

Patterns observed
Most likely to self-medicate
16.8% of men aged above 50
16.2% of men living apart from their spouses
16.5% of men rated as mildly ill (CGI-S scale)
Key clinical observations across all age groups
57.4% diagnosed with performance anxiety
17.9% had diabetes
11.97% had hypertension

Observations from 14,594 subjects across various age groups and health conditions revealed that 57.4% were diagnosed with performance anxiety, 17.9% had diabetes, and 11.97% had hypertension.

"Sexual medicine is not recognised as a separate branch by the National Medical Council, which undermines its importance and forces people to resort to other means such as self-medication," said Dr Sandip Deshpande, one of the study's researchers and a consultant psychiatrist and sexologist.

The lack of emphasis on the field has also led to the growth of counterfeit drugs and dependence on alternative treatments such as herbal medicine, he added.

Erectile dysfunction is caused by three major factors: physical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, psychological issues including stress, depression and performance anxiety, and lifestyle factors such as obesity.

Dr Nikunj Gokani, researcher, consultant psychiatrist and sexual health expert, said, "While performance anxiety is largely seen among people in their late 20s and early 30s, self-medication is higher among older age groups. People in long-distance relationships or those dating showed a higher prevalence of self-medication, as the frequency of sexual activity was lower and they preferred a quick fix over standard treatment."

The continuing taboo around sexual health and the need for privacy remain major reasons people avoid consulting doctors. Dr Ashima Sahore, consultant sexual health therapist, trainer and researcher, said, "Fear of judgment from peer groups, the need for immediate relief, and secrecy from partners are among the major reasons people choose self-medication, even when they are aware of the risks. Only when the problem persists despite self-medication, and with a partner's involvement, do they seek medical consultation."

She added that it is encouraging to see younger people consulting doctors instead of relying solely on the internet for solutions.

Three arrested over attempted robbery at supermarket

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Puttenahalli police have arrested three people who allegedly entered a supermarket and attempted to rob it, officials said on Monday.

The arrested—Syed Asif, 23, Syed Salim, 26, and Siddiq Pasha, 23,—who sold clothes on the roadside, entered a Daily Needs Supermarket at Arekere on June 5 at 11.20 pm.

Once inside, the suspects attempted to steal cash and mobile phones from the cash counter.

Stephen Raj, a staff member at the supermarket, confronted the suspects and was assaulted while trying to stop them. The suspects escaped.

Police said the three, all residents of Tilak Nagar, were arrested the next day and confessed to the crime during questioning.

A case has been registered under Section 309 (robbery) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is ongoing.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Zonal Contract for upkeepment of structures and repairs and replacement of pipe line, Fire Hydrants, water supply arrangements, sanitary and drainage arrangements inside and outside of RTS Box including all service buildings from km 01/4 to 07/14 i.e. between Dumdum (Ex.) to Central (Incl.) and Patipukur Store Depot, including all staff quarters, TA quarters and RPF Barrack at Belgachia & Chitpur area, 36/1, Belgachia Road with 60, Belgachia Road with 63, Belgachia Road, RPF Barrack & quarter with 64/1, Rajbari/Belgachia Road and TA quarter at Ultadanga of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 3,74,58,859.19, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7,49,200/-. **Completion Period:** Twenty Four (24) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 30.06.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum,if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2580-2026 (Open)

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to purchase the commercial plot more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners M/s.PrabhudasGurumukh Singh & Sons, a partnership firm having its office at No.2, First Stree, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600006,who have represented that they are lawful owners in possession of the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Fifteen (15) days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Plot measuring an extent of about 13½ Guntas bearing Plot No.11 carved out of a portion of Sy. No.81 in the Commercial Layout formed on the larger extent of commercially converted land measuring a total extent of about 16 Acres comprised in Sy. Nos.76A, 77A, 80 and 81, all situated at Hegganahalli Village, KundanaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by :** Commercial Plot No.10, **North by :** Commercial Plot No.8, **South by:** Commercial Plot bearing Nos.11A and 11B.

ARVIND RAGHAVAN, ADVOCATE
#48, "Ishita" 3rd Floor, 2nd MAIN ROAD, VYALIKAVAL, BANGALORE – 560003
E-mail: arvind_ncsr@yahoo.com
Place : Bangalore **Date : 03.06.2026**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 04.06.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Engineer/III, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-98-26-27. Name of the Work :** Elimination of Level Crossing (LC) Gate no. 69 by constructing Limited Height Subway (LHS) by RCC boxes including roof covered RCC U-Trough in Ranaghat-Gede section in the jurisdiction of DEN/III/SDAH. **Tender Value :** Rs. 8,70,37,219.44. **EMD:** Rs. 17,40,800/-. **Completion period for the work :** 6 months. **Date & time of closing of tender :** 30.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 30.06.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-72/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at Website
www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. DSTE, Chakradharpur, South Eastern Railway acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders against Tender No. mentioned below due to open on **26.06.2026** at **15.00 hrs.** Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-27, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** Provision of IP based Integrated Passenger Information Systems (CIB, TIB, AGDB, True Colour MLDB, Auto Announcement Systems) at 10 Stations. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,56,20,547.51. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 11,12,400. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-28, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** Provision of Modenization of UTN datacom equipment outlived or about to outlived their codal life in Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,34,62,377.34. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,69,300. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-29, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** (i) Provision of Railnet connection with GPON technology and Wi-Fi at Jharsuguda station, (ii) Provision of Protection path for Control Communication through SIM based wireless connectivity at 4 Sections. **Tender Value:** ₹ 88,24,547.67. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,76,500. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-30, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** Replacement of leftover Analog Axle Counter with Digital Axle Counter (106 DP). **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,19,89,968.42. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 10,39,800. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-31, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** Replacement of leftover Analog Axle Counter with Digital Axle Counter (122 DP). **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,58,53,150.90. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 11,17,100. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender No.: ST-CKP-OT-26-27-32, Date: 05.06.2026. Name of work:** Replacement of leftover Analog Axle Counter with Digital Axle Counter (123 DP). **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,89,40,563.39. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 11,78,800. **Completion Period:** 06 (six) months [for Sl.No. 1 to 3 each] & 12 (twelve) months [for Sl.No. 4 to 6 each]. The tender details can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-tendering. e-Tender forms shall be issued free of cost. **(PR-286)**

Office of The Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone) P.W.D Bhopal (M.P.)
Email:- cepwdcapital@mp.nic.in Telephone/Fax No. 0755-2SS1403

TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 10/G. /1/Mis/Bpl.Z./2019 (Year 2026) **Bhopal, Date 05-06-2026**

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal **https//mptenders.gov.in** Teader details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. in lack)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	2026_ PWDRS _511887_1	Vidisha	Road	Construction of CC road Poornapura Link road No.5 to Ahmadpur Road length 1.50 km, Kagdipura to Hospital road via Gurudwara, Baalbihar Chowk length 1.40 km., Madhavganj Hospital road Ravi shankar Chouraha Neemtal Chowk to Talk Chowk Mayaur News Offie to Bada Bazar length 1.10 km. Total Length 5.00 km.	5th Call	977.27	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
3	2026_ PWDRS _511888_1	Vidisha	Road	Construction of Ramleela to Gallamandi chowk via Bajariya Chowk length 1.60 km., NH 86 to Karaiyakhoda road length 2.40 km., Kiri Mohalla to Baralpura Chowraha length 1.20 km. Total Length 5.20 km.	5th Call	979.03	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
4	2026_ PWDRS _511890_1	Vidisha	Road	Construction to Vidisha Railway Station Madhav Ganj Chowk Mala Road to Pedi School, Chanakya road to Bajariya Jhaki Chowk Via Shivaji Chok length 2.30 km	9th Call	663.82	EMD/All Document are to be submitted online only.
				Total		**2620.12**	

The documents can be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 19.06.2026 up to (17.30) Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, If any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bhopal Zone)
P.W.D. Bhopal Madhya pradesh

G-14123.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thanks giving for the favour and blessings seeking your blessings always
- Vijayalakshmi & Family

THANKSGIVING

Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in Deccan Herald

@ 2100 with GST

(Size 4cmx5cm)

For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

INDIAN NAVY
COMBAT READY COHESIVE AATMANIRBHAR

INDIAN NAVY

THE INDIAN NAVY 10+2 (B.TECH) CADET ENTRY SCHEME (PERMANENT COMMISSION)
COURSE COMMENCING – JAN 2027

Scan this QR Code to Apply Online

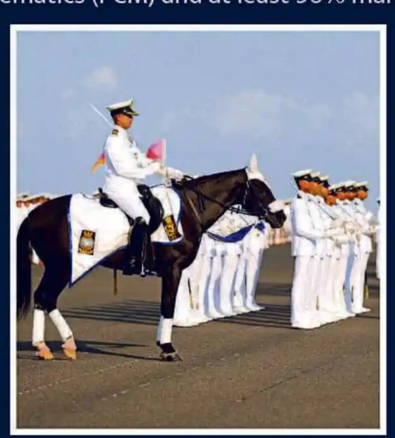
Applications are invited from unmarried men and women candidates (fulfilling the conditions of nationality as laid down by the Govt. of India) for becoming Permanent Commissioned Officers in Technical branches under 10+2 B Tech Cadet Entry Scheme after undergoing four year B Tech course at the prestigious Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

DATE OF OPENING – 29 May 2026 | LAST DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION – 18 Jun 2026

Vacancies & Age: The age eligibility & vacancies for the course are as under:-

Branch	Vacancy	Gender	Age
Electronics & Communication Engineering	30	Men & Women (Maximum of 08 Vacancies for women, 04 each for Mechanical Engg and Electronics & Communication Engg)	Born between 02 Jul 2007 and 01 Jan 2010 (both dates inclusive)
Mechanical Engineering	30		

Educational Qualification. Passed Senior Secondary Examination (10+2 Pattern) or its equivalent examination from any recognised Board with at least 70% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) and at least 50% marks in English (either in Class X or Class XII).



CBC 10701/13/0012/2627

For eligibility criteria and details visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in

Safeguarding Seas for a Viksit Samriddha Bharat

Sunil Kanugolu is CM's chief advisor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Political strategist Sunil Kanugolu was appointed on Monday as Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's chief advisor. Kanugolu, who heads the political consultancy Inclusive Minds, was also the chief advisor when Siddaramaiah was CM.

He is said to have played an important role in the Congress' decisive victory in the 2023 Assembly elections in both Karnataka and Telangana.

B'luru woman dies after developing breathing issues in Dharmasthala

MANGALURU, DHNS: A 49-year-old woman from Bengaluru reportedly developed breathing issues while performing urulu seve (rolling on the floor after taking a vow) inside the Dharmasthala temple premises and died on Monday.

The deceased was identified as H N Kumari.

In a complaint, her son Tarun, a resident of Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, said that he, along with his mother, had arrived at the Dharmasthala on Sunday.

On Monday morning, she suddenly experienced breathing problems while performing the urulu seve.

She was immediately shifted to a hospital at Ujire in an ambulance for treatment.

However, doctors, who examined her, declared her dead.

An Unnatural Death Report under Section 194 of the BNSS has been registered at the Dharmasthala police station.

Keep registration documents ready, Priyank tells RSS

'Not seeking a ban on organisation, but demanding accountability'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday demanded accountability from the RSS, asking the Karnataka BJP to tell the "body of individuals" to keep documents ready for registration.

He was reacting to an X post by the state BJP that suggested that the Home Department was now stuck in the hands of an "incompetent minister". Priyank succeeded G Parameshwara as the Karnataka home minister just last week. Speaking to *DH*, Priyank said he was not seeking a ban on the organisation but rather demanding transparency and accountability.

"I received two death threats soon after taking charge as home minister from the RSS. So I have asked them to keep ready the documents for registration," he stated, clarifying that he was not ordering any crackdown but only asking that the procedure be followed.

Priyank Kharge

"If you start an NGO, don't you have to register and inform the government about its headquarters and activities? If an organisation is marching across the state, there must be accountability," he said. "When have I ever said I will ban the RSS? I have never said that. All I am saying is that I will seek accountability."

He added, "I am not above the Constitution or the rule of law. It is time they started answering the people and the government."

In a separate media briefing, Priyank pointed out that the RSS collects "huge" donations from the public and being a "body of individuals" doesn't give it tax exemptions.

However, senior BJP leader and the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R Ashoka, maintained that the RSS had been functioning for decades in accordance with the law and questioned why registration was being demanded now.

He argued that prominent national leaders, including former presidents, prime ministers and chief ministers, had associations with the RSS and accused the Congress of targeting the organisation for political reasons.

"The RSS operates legally, complies with applicable laws and does not require any fresh registration merely because of the home minister's statement," Ashoka told *DH*.

B L Santhosh, the BJP national general secretary (organisation), who was deputed from the RSS, declined to comment.

A file photo of the Tumakuru railway station. The upgraded system is expected to support the operation of heavier freight trains and longer passenger services while improving overall reliability of the electric traction infrastructure.

Electric traction upgrade for B'luru-Tumakuru rail line

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Railways has sanctioned upgrading the electric traction system on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru section, one of the busiest in Karnataka.

The project involves converting the existing 1x25 kV electric traction system to a 2x25 kV electric traction system over a stretch of 120 track kilometres (TKM) at a cost of Rs 162.57 crore.

According to a news release, the adoption of the 2x25 kV traction system will strengthen power supply arrangements for train operations, enabling the section to handle higher traffic volumes more efficiently. The upgraded system is expected to support the operation of heavier freight trains and longer passenger services while improving overall reliability of the electric traction infrastructure.

The project will contribute to decongesting a key rail route serving the Bengaluru metropolitan region and adjoining districts, while also supporting smoother movement of passenger and freight traffic across Karnataka and southern India. The enhancement aligns with Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise its electrical infrastructure, increase network capacity and improve operational performance on high-density corridors, the statement said.

The Bengaluru-Tumakuru section is part of the strategically important Highly Utilised Network (HUN) Route-10, which connects major economic and industrial centres along the Pune-Hubballi-Chikjajur-Birur-Tumakuru-Bengaluru-Salem-Kanniyakumari corridor, it added.

Separately, South Western Railway (SWR) plans to double the tracks from the existing two at a cost of Rs 3,500 crore and has completed the DPR.

'No ID, no entry': HM warns of action against liquor outlets allowing underage drinkers

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday directed the police to ensure strict age verification at pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges and other liquor-serving establishments to prevent underage drinking.

The move follows a recent Bengaluru-based study that found alcohol and tobacco use among adolescents and young adults was significantly higher than national averages.

Citing a recent study by researchers from St John's National Academy of Medical Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be) University and Kasturba Medical College, Kharge noted that one in three adolescents surveyed were at risk of health issues linked to alcohol or tobacco use.

Under the new guidelines, establishments must verify government-issued ID before allowing entry or serving alcohol. Owners, managers and licence holders will be held accountable for violations. police have been asked to ensure CCTV compliance and coordinate with educational institutions and parents to prevent substance abuse among minors and warned that any venue allowing underage drinking will face severe action.

"Children and young people must be protected from alcohol and substance abuse. The rule is simple: No ID, No Entry," Kharge said.

The legal drinking age in Karnataka is 18.

Smart cards soon for Shakti scheme beneficiaries: Transport minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government will soon launch smart cards for women travelling on RTC buses under the Shakti scheme, said B S Suresha (Byrathi), who took charge as the state's new transport minister on Monday.

He also announced the procurement of 1,000 buses with government funds for the state's four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs).

The Hebbal MLA visited Transport House, the central offices of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), and held a meeting with the heads and senior officials of the KSRTC, the BMTC, the KKRTC and the NWKRTC to review their functioning and receive briefings on departmental matters, according to an official release.

Speaking after the meeting, Suresha noted that passenger numbers under the Shakti scheme had increased by 40% since its launch (in June 2023).

To make the scheme more effective, more than three crore people would be issued the smart cards. While women will receive the smart cards free of charge, men can obtain them by paying a fee, similar to a metro card. Men will need to recharge the cards once the balance is exhausted, he added.

Since around three crore smart cards need to be issued, officials have been directed to float a global tender for their production and launch the distribution process under a pilot project at the earliest, he added.

Besides procuring 4,000 electric buses with support from the Union government, the state will purchase 1,000 buses using its funds and distribute them among the four RTCs, Suresha added.

The minister further said officials had been instructed to expedite the installation of Vehicle Location Tracking Systems (VLTS) in private passenger vehicles, including commercial cars and taxis.

More than one lakh vehicles have already been fitted with the system. The remaining four lakh to five lakh vehicles should be equipped with the tracking system within the next three to four months, the minister added.

Transport Department Secretary Deepa Cholan, Commissioner Selvamani R, and senior officials from all four RTCs attended the meeting, the release said.

Kharge, three others set for unopposed election to RS?

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, Pawan Khera, Mansoor Ali Khan and BJP's M Nagaraja are poised to be elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha. Monday was the last day for candidates to file their nominations. One independent candidate, Bojanna Somayya, has filed his papers. However, he may not pass scrutiny as his nomination does not have any MLA as a proposer. Scrutiny of nominations will happen on June 9. The last date to withdraw nominations is June 11.

Lost Money in a Financial Fraud?
Investments lost in fraudulent schemes?
I lost money to a fraudster online!
A company offered me high returns and is now untraceable!
सचेत
An SLCC initiative
Lodge your complaint on SACHET PORTAL
Provides information and guidance for filing complaints related to financial irregularities.
Complaints lodged on Sachet Portal are redirected to the concerned authorities to initiate necessary actions.
User can track their complaints on the Portal.
File your complaints on https://sachet.rbi.org.in
RBI Kehta Hai...
Sachet rahein, Surakshit rahein!
For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/sachet
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in
Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE

Sri. Nand Kishore Malu

Senior Director & Project Director

THE IDEAL HOMES CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY LTD

We, the President, Vice President, Directors, Staff and Members of The Ideal Homes Co-operative Building Society Limited, Bangalore, express our heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of Sri. Nand Kishore Malu.

He was truly an exceptional leader, mentor and visionary whose dedication, integrity and honesty set a benchmark for all of us.

We pray that Almighty God grants eternal peace to his noble soul and strength to his family during this time of sorrow.

THE IDEAL HOMES CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY LTD

Ideal Homes Township, Mysore Road, Bengaluru – 560098

Panchayat polls by year-end, says Eshwar Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS: All pending panchayat elections will be conducted by the end of this year, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Eshwar Khandre said on Monday.

Eshwar Khandre

Khandre said this after taking charge as RDPR minister and holding an introductory meeting with department officials.

"In the next eight weeks, delimitation and reservation processes will be completed. The remaining work will be done by the State Election Commission," Khandre said.

Elections to Zilla and Taluk Panchayats have not been held since 2021. The state has 5,943 gram panchayats whose term ended in January and February.

Khandre has asked officials to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to people in rural areas, calling it "the foremost responsibility of all gram panchayats."

The minister pointed out instances in which people died after consuming contaminated water. He said water quality should be tested regularly in NABL-accredited laboratories.

The minister said Karnataka has around 2 lakh km of rural roads. He has sought a report on how many are mud roads, concrete roads, and asphalt roads.

He also directed officials to ensure at least one connecting road is provided to villages that currently lack bus connectivity.

MLC polls: Number game on as JD(S) fields candidate

Eight candidates in the fray now for 7 seats

BENGALURU, DHNS

The JD(S) decided on Monday to force an election for the Legislative Council by fielding its sitting member Govinda Raju.

With Congress fielding Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's aide Vinay Karthik, there are now eight candidates in the fray for seven positions.

After filing his nomination papers, Govinda Raju claimed he is an NDA candidate. Now, the victory of Govinda Raju and Vinay Karthik largely depends on the two independent members of the House - Latha Mallikarjun and Puttaswamy Gowda.

Going by the numbers, Congress falls short of six votes for its fifth candidate and JD(S) needs four votes as it will get support of six from alliance partner BJP.

Meanwhile, leaders of both parties are working on their own strategies to ensure victory.

Speaking to the media after Govinda Raju filed the nomination papers, JD(S) floor leader in the Legislative Assembly C B Suresh Babu gave a hint that JD(S) is working out some strategy.

"We have also fielded a candidate and we are counting on the BJP too. There are several strategies that everyone will come to know in the coming days. How Byrathi Suresh won the Upper House election by defeating an official Congress candidate in the past is an open secret," he said.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar also reacted to the candidature by JD(S) and said, "While playing chess, does anyone reveal which pawn they will move next?"

Of the 224 members in the Assembly, 134 are from Congress, 62 BJP, 18 JD(S), 3 unattached members (expelled from BJP), 1 from Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha (KRPP), 1 Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha, two independents, one Speaker and two seats vacant (due to the death of D Sudhakar and conviction of former Congress minister Vinay Kulkarni).

Each candidate requires 28 votes to secure victory. Based on current numbers, both BJP candidates are expected to win comfortably, leaving the party with six surplus votes that are likely to be transferred to the JD(S) candidate.

The JD(S), which has 18 members in the Assembly, will see its tally rise to 24 with the support of six BJP votes. Even then, the party's candidate will remain four votes short of the required number.

Among the three expelled BJP MLAs, Shivaram Hebbar and S T Somashekar have already aligned themselves with Congress, making their support unlikely. However, JD(S) is hopeful of securing the backing of another expelled BJP MLA, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal.

JD(S) leaders are also confident of obtaining the support of KRPP MLA G. Janardhana Reddy.

"Even if we get the support of Yatnal and Reddy, we will still be short of two votes. We are also keen to know how our leaders plan to bridge the gap, as it largely depends on independent MLAs," a JD(S) leader said.

The situation is not very different for Congress. With 134 members, the party will be left with 22 votes after allocating to ensure the victory of its four candidates. This leaves its fifth candidate six votes short of winning mark.

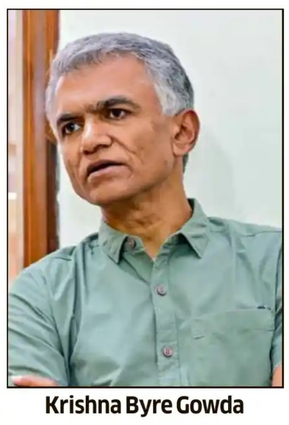
Even if Somashekar and Hebbar extend their support, Congress will still need 4 more votes. Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha MLA Darshan Puttannaiah is expected to support Congress, while the acting speaker is also likely to cast his vote in favour of the ruling party. Even then, the party will be two votes short.

Any absence during voting or an incorrectly cast vote can further complicate the contest and significantly alter the outcome.

KBG yet to take charge as clarity eludes Bengaluru development portfolio

Rare division of city's responsibility among 2 ministers

DHNS, BENGALURU


Krishna Byre Gowda

Four days after being given the Bengaluru development ministerial portfolio, Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda is yet to formally assume charge, with indications that he is unhappy over the limited scope of the department.

While Gowda has not publicly commented on the issue, sources said he was awaiting clarity on the portfolio's scope, particularly since the Chief Minister D K Shivakumar would retain the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA).

There is also a lack of clarity over handling the GBA's town planning department, which deals not just with clearing development and building plans but also preparing to undertake a comprehensive master plan for the city.

What's more, the move marks a rare division of Bengaluru's development responsibilities — among the prime portfolios in the state — between two ministers. Going by the precedence, the Bengaluru development portfolio has either been kept with the chief minister himself or handed over to a minister. The split in the Bengaluru development portfolio is unusual.

This has led to a common perception of two commanding authorities for a single portfolio.

Sources familiar with the developments said Gowda was awaiting clarity from the Congress high command on the exact powers and responsibilities attached to the portfolio before formally assuming office.

As per the distribution of responsibilities, Gowda has been entrusted with overseeing the newly-constituted Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and Namma Metro. On the other hand, the chief minister has kept the agencies such as the BDA and the BMRDA under his charge.

While the BDA is handling some of the city's biggest projects such as K Shivaram Karanth Layout, the Rs 27,000-crore Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) and the Rs 1,200-crore Hebbal short tunnel project, the BMRDA has taken up the Bidadi township project. Some of these initiatives received a major push when Shivakumar was the Bengaluru development minister for three years.

Ramalinga Reddy takes charge as water resources minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Days after he tendered, and subsequently withdrew, his resignation from the state Cabinet, upset over being denied the Bengaluru Development portfolio, Ramalinga Reddy on Monday formally took charge as the Water Resources Minister and even held a meeting with the department officials.

Reddy said, "I won't seek any other portfolio. Even if I am offered the Bengaluru (Development) portfolio, I won't take it. In the past three years, I have gone to Delhi only thrice, each of which was for an official purpose."

On his remark in a letter to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, wherein he said he was resigning since he could not 'act against his conscience', Reddy said, "You should speak to the CM about that."

I will convene a meeting with the officials of all the four corporations under the Irrigation Department's purview by next week, said Reddy.

Reddy directed officials to ensure supply of drinking water to Bengaluru from the proposed Mekedatu project. He said he would raise other pending issues such as gazetting for the Upper Krishna Project with the Centre.

"I will personally visit Delhi to get the nod for irrigation projects," said Reddy.

'Was planning to stay away from politics if denied CM post'

TUMAKURU, DHNS

Expressing his disappointment over being denied for the chief minister's post three times, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said that he was considering quitting politics if the Congress high command denied him the top post during the recent leadership transition.

Parameshwara said this, ruing the missed opportunities during an informal talk at a felicitation event at Siddhartha College here on Monday. The video clip of which has gone viral on social media.

Parameshwara was heard saying, "In 2013, Siddaramaiah was made CM after I lost the elections. I would have become the chief minister if I had won the elections from Koratagere... but I was not destined. In the 2018 assembly elections, Congress had won 80 seats and the JD(S) 37. When the Congress and the JD(S) forged the alliance to form the government, H D Kumaraswamy was made chief minister due to some political compulsions. I missed out on the opportunity to become the chief minister for the second time."

Parameshwara

"During the recent leadership transition, I was confident that I would be made CM. But for some unknown reasons, I was not made CM. D K Shivakumar was elevated as CM while I was given the post of deputy chief minister," he rued.

"I entered politics by chance. I have four decades of experience in active politics. People have blessed me by recognising my work. Otherwise I would not have come this long in politics," the six-time Congress MLA said.

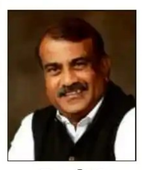
As Siddu exits as chief minister, BJP picks Kuruba candidate for Rajya Sabha election

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a surprise pick widely being seen as part of a wider social engineering, the BJP has picked Prof M Nagaraja as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha election.

Nagaraja, who holds a PhD, will be the lone BJP member in parliament from Kuruba community. A native of Hubballi, Nagaraja is a long-time RSS, ABVP member and a former KPSC member.

His choice came as a last moment surprise, as names of former PM H D Deve Gowda, former CM D V Sadananda Gowda and former Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh were doing rounds. The decision to opt for a candidate from Kuruba community appears to be a direct consequence of the resignation as CM of Siddaramaiah — the top-most Kuruba leader. For Council elections, BJP chose Raghu Kautilya (OBC — Madiwala) and Lingaraj Patil (Lingayat).

Sources said the decision to opt for two OBC candidates (one Kuruba, one Madiwala) and one Lingayat was part of a strategy to retain its core support base among Lingayats, while building support among OBCs.

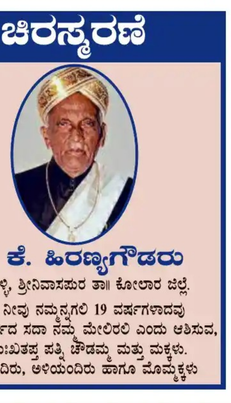

Prof M Nagaraja

Given its present strength in the Assembly, BJP is virtually guaranteed to secure the elections of Nagaraja, Raghu Kautilya and Lingaraj Patil.

Political analyst A Narayana told *DH*, "Shivakumar's elevation as chief minister was not intended to blunt the BJP-JD(S) alliance. But its strategic implication is likely to go against BJP and JD(S), and BJP's plans to finally expand its base in south Karnataka, especially among Vokkaligas".

Explaining that the OBCs were both the largest group in the state and the easiest target within Ahinda bloc for BJP in post-Siddaramaiah era, Narayana said BJP's choice of Nagaraja was a result of this strategy. Noting that the Congress had more formidable Kuruba leaders than BJP (even without Siddaramaiah), Narayana was curious to see who emerges on top in the long run.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form



DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

REAL ESTATE SELLING
House
Mysore

SALE 60X40 MUDA site 2BHK house behind Sankranthi Circle HEBBAL, MYSORE. 11,500/- sqft. 9900850729

PERSONAL
Change of Name

I, SREECHARAN, residing at Malur Channapatna, Ramanagar-562160 have changed my name as SREECHARAN NARASIMHAPRASAD vide affidavit dated 6/6/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Begalauru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAMESH KUMAR and RAMESH KUMAR KANYALAL, R/at Apt No. 401, 4th Floor, Gangothri Enclave, 36th A Cross, 11th A Main Road, Head Post Office, Jayanagar, 4th T Block, Bengaluru-560011, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as RAMESH KUMAR vide affidavit dated 08-06-2026 before notary Mohammed Hussain K, Bangalore.

I, MALLIKARJUN S/o Late. Basanna R/at Flat No.1, 729/34-1, 2nd Main road, E Block, 2nd Stage Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560010 have changed my name to MALLIKARJUN.B.DEVAPUR vide affidavit dated: 06/06/2026 Before Notary Onkarappa.N.R Bangalore.

I, MALACHIRA SUNITHA DHIRAJ, residing at House No. 594, 14th Cross, 5th Main, RMV 2nd Stage, New BEL Road, Bangalore 560094, have changed my name from MALACHIRA SUNITHA DHIRAJ to SUNITHA DHIRAJ, vide affidavit dated 04/06/2026, sworn before B.R. SHASHIKALA, Notary, Bangalore.

I, ARIHANT S/o SANTOK CHAND JAIN have changed my name to ARIHANT JAIN vide affidavit dated: 6/6/2026 Before Notary Vanajakshi. R Bangalore.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

JOB
To Place your Classified Ads Contact:
9886213331

Classifieds
ADMISSION CORNER

VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AN INSTITUTE OF JANATHA EDUCATION SOCIETY®
Recognised by GOK, Affiliated to VTU Approved by AICTE
KCET CODE: E087
Admission Open 2026-27
B.E: ENGINEERING
CSE | ISE | AI&ML
ECE | MECH | CIVIL
VIVEKANANDA COLLEGES
PHARMA: D.Pharm, B.Pharm, M. Pharm
LAW: 3 Year LL.B, 5 Year: B.A | B.Com LL.B
DEGREE: B.A | B.Sc | B.Ed, B.Com: Reg. | BDA | LSCM, M.Com
MANAGEMENT: BCA, BBA, MBA
95139 53482
76250 13637
R & D Centers | Excellent Placement | 4.4 Lac Avg. P.A CTC | Skill Lab | Campus Hostel
VKIT Campus: Gudimavu, Kumbalagodu, Off. Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-74. Email : principal@vitb.ac.in Web : vitb.ac.in
Main Campus: Dr. Rajkumar Road, Next to Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-55 E-mail : admission@vivekanandacolleges.in Web : vivekanandacolleges.in

BUSINESS
Business to Business
Finance

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY
Property Investors Fully Secured Layout Project Best Returns 1year Project. Genuine's Only. 9902678314

Don't discriminate against us, JD(S) MLAs tell chief minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

A delegation of JD(S) legislators called on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday, to urge the CM not to shortchange them in the disbursal of developmental funds.

The delegation called on the CM a day after Shivakumar issued an open invitation to JD(S) workers while addressing a gathering in Kanakapura. "I am not the CM for Congress workers alone. My doors are open to JD(S) members too," said Shivakumar.

JD(S) MLAs, including party's floor leader in the Legislative Assembly Suresh Babu, call on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday.

The JD(S) delegation, led by MLA C B Suresh Babu, comprised Karemma Nayak, A Manju, G T Harish Gowda, Swaroop Prakash, C N Balakrishna, Venkatashiva Reddy and Nemiraj Naik.

"We have urged the CM not to discriminate against MLAs of our party while allocating developmental funds. The CM has assured us that it will not happen," Suresh Babu told reporters after the meeting.

Rape of American woman: Kodagu homestay operator challenges arrest in HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court on Monday ordered notice to the Kutta police in Kodagu in a petition filed by the principal operator of a homestay in the hilly district.

The petitioner challenged his arrest and judicial custody for 14 days in a rape case based on the complaint by a 33-year-old American woman. The court has directed the police to place the entire investigation papers by the next date of hearing.

The FIR was registered on April 18, 2026, under BNS sections 64 (1), 351 (2), 238 and 239, primarily for rape, destruction of evidence and intentionally not reporting a crime. The woman's complaint stated that she was drugged, held captive and sexually assaulted at the homestay on April 12, 2026. However, the petitioner claimed that while the FIR alleges sexual offence against a housekeeper at the homestay, it contains no allegation against him.

In addition, the offence of common intention under BNS Section 3 (5) was inserted in the remand application on April 19 when he was arrested, he added. The petitioner said while the complainant had identified the housekeeper as the offender, there is no allegation that he was also present.

"The contemporaneous content produced by the petitioner such as the WhatsApp chat with the prosecutrix (complainant) indicate that the petitioner was not present in the premises," the petition said.

Agri dept invites applications for block technology managers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Agriculture Department has invited applications from eligible candidates for the post of Block Technology Manager (BTM) in Bengaluru Urban district under the centrally sponsored ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) scheme on a contractual basis.

The candidate should have a postgraduate degree in an agriculture-related field with computer skills.

Agriculture graduates with at least five years' experience as an Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) can also apply.

Candidates should also have a minimum of two years' experience working in agriculture or allied sectors.

Applicants must submit their CV along with supporting documents to the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Krishi Sankeerna, Banashankari, Bengaluru, by June 15.

For further information, candidates may contact the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Krishi Complex, Banashankari, Bengaluru Urban district–560070, or call 080-26711594, according to an official release.

9 dead in Vizag steel plant as molten metal falls on workers

Vizag, from Page 1

The deceased have been identified as Apparao, Prabhakar Rao, Krishna, Ramana, Trinath, Gold Kumar, Appalaraju, Bhanukumar, and Ramanath.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock and grief over the devastating accident.

PM Modi announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the next of kin of each deceased, and Rs 50,000 for each injured person.

He noted that local authorities were providing all possible assistance to those affected.

CM Naidu has directed the officials to coordinate the rescue and relief efforts in an effective manner.

Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Bhupathi Raju Srinivas Varma, described the incident as deeply unfortunate and said preliminary investigation pointed to an explosion during the transportation of molten steel.

He added that the exact cause could only be determined after a thorough investigation.

He also noted that Union Steel Minister, H D Kumaraswamy, had inquired about the incident.

"We suspect a blast triggered the fire, but a thorough investigation is needed to determine the actual cause," said N Ayodhyaram, a workers' union leader.

Siddanakolla waterfall comes alive following heavy rain at Yellammana Gudda in Saundatti on Monday. DH PHOTOS

The Monday evening downpour disrupts shandy (santhe) in Bailhongal town, Belagavi district. The town received heavy showers for over three hours throwing life out of gear.

Unprecedented rains pour misery on Bailhongal, Saundatti

Showers forecast for coast, Malnad; red alert sounded

BENGALURU, DHNS

A red alert has been sounded in the coastal region and two Malnad districts - Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru for Tuesday with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting heavy rain, coupled with thunder and lightning.

The IMD has predicted heavy rain, accompanied by gusty winds, Kodagu, Hassan, Belagavi, Haveri and Dharwad districts for Tuesday. An orange alert has been sounded for the aforementioned districts.

After a brief lull, heavy rains continued to lash Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts intermittently on Monday. The coastal towns of Uttara Kannada - Bhatkal, Honnavar and Karwar - received heavy rains in spells. Rainwaters gushed into the premises of Bhatkal taluk hospital, causing grave hardships to the patients and staff. Sharp showers left roads flooded inconveniencing the motorists.

Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu and Shivamogga districts experienced light to moderate showers on Monday, the Malnad districts are likely to receive heavy rain on Tuesday. The Shivamogga district administration has asked the people living close to the banks downstream of Tunga reservoir to move to safer places as the authorities may release water from the dam.

Up north, heavy rains hit normal life in Bailhongal, Chennammana Kittur, Yeragatti and Saundatti taluks in Belagavi district on Monday. Skies opened up in the evening and it poured for three hours.

Bailhongal received unprecedented rains, accompanied by thunder and lightning, in the evening. After a three-hour spell, bikes and auto rickshaws were seen floating on the flooded roads, Rainwater gushed into many houses in several residential areas.

The downpour disrupted the Monday shandy in Bailhongal as the sharp rain forced the vendors to take shelter along with items on sale at shops and under-construction buildings.

A YouTuber and a resident of Kulkarni Galli in Bailhongal holds a dharna on the flooded road, condemning the apathy of the civic authorities in repairing roads and drains ahead of the monsoon.

A YouTuber, Eshwar Shiledar, staged a dharna on a flooded road in Bailhongal's Kulkarni Galli condemning the apathy of the civic authorities in repairing road and decongesting drains in the town. The video and photos of the demonstration in the rain are doing rounds on social media.

Siddanakolla falls came alive at Yellamana Gudda in Saundatti. Acres of the farmland remained submerged. Tree fall and uprooting of electricity poles were reported and the vehicular movement came to a standstill in the region.

Unrelenting rains in the past three days have affected normal life in Rattihalli town and parts of taluk in Haveri district. Acres of agricultural land have been flooded disrupting the farming activities.

Nargund in Gadag taluk and parts of Bagalkot district, including Kerur and Rabkavi-Banahatti, also received copious rains, bringing cheer to farmers ahead of kharif season.

Another jolt for Didi: 20 TMC MPs write to Speaker, back NDA

TMC, from Page 1

The crises plaguing the TMC reached the second flashpoint when Mamata herself, was attending a meeting of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc in New Delhi.

The rebel TMC parliamentarians met at the residence of Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav in the national capital itself and later wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, conveying their decision to support the NDA.

Suvendu Adhikari, who took over as West Bengal CM, was also present in the meeting.

The TMC rebels included celebrity film actor Deepak Adhikari, a.k.a. Dev.

The support of the TMC parliamentarians is likely to come in handy for the BJP-led NDA government, which is planning to make a renewed move to enhance the size of the Lok Sabha by redrawing boundaries based on the 2011 census, and enable reservation for women based on delimitation.

Adhikari also drove to the residence of actress-turned-politician Satabdi Roy, one of the rebel TMC parliamentarians, in New Delhi in the evening.

Some other TMC rebels – Khalilur Rehman, Sharmila Sarkar, Abu Taher Khan, Bapi Haldar, Jagadish Basunia, June Malia, Kali Pada Soren and Asit Mal – had been present at the residence of Roy in the evening.

Kakoli said on Monday that nearly 20 TMC members in the Lok Sabha, including herself, had requested the Speaker for separate seating.

"We will work with the central and the state governments for the development of West Bengal. We have taken this decision together in view of the lawlessness, lack of development and unemployment that the state of West Bengal witnessed over the past few years," she told journalists.

"I have been with Mamata Banerjee for 40 years. I am not among the people who joined her after she came to power in West Bengal in 2011," she added, seeking to dismiss the allegations that she had decided to revolt because the TMC had now lost power in the state.

Mamata had recently replaced Kakoli with Kalyan Banerjee, another TMC veteran, as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha.

Mahua Moitra, another TMC member in the Lok Sabha, called the rebel parliamentarians "greedy" and "self-serving traitors". She pointed out that they had won on the TMC tickets in the 2024 parliamentary elections in West Bengal. "The mandate (in 2024) was not for the NDA." Moitra dared the rebels to resign from the membership of the Lok Sabha and contest the elections again.

Mahua pointed out that the rebels still did not have the support of the 19 parliamentarians to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law.

Kakoli's move to lead the rebels in writing a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker was questioned by Kirti Azad, another TMC parliamentarian, who pointed out that she had already been removed from the post of the chief whip of the party in the lower House of Parliament.

Cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan is also likely to join the rebel parliamentarians of the party. So is Rachana, a TV presenter. The rebels are trying to rope in movie star Shatrughan Sinha, who switched from the BJP to the Congress in 2019, joined the TMC in 2022.

OMR to Silk Board: Rs 1,300-cr...

Flyover, from Page 1

The project comprises a rotary flyover on Old Madras Road and at Madiwala Junction as well as two 90-degree curves at Indira Gate and old KFC signal. The alignment continues along Hosur Road. At Silk Board Junction, the proposal includes a double-decker flyover integrated with metro line.

Although the 2.4-km Ejipura flyover is yet to open despite nearly a decade of construction, the DPR has set a 24-month deadline to complete the new flyover, which is nearly 5 times longer.

B S Prahallad, Director (Technical) of B-SMILE, said the alignment was designed to provide uninterrupted movement of vehicles across Hosur Road and Old Madras Road.

"Now, Ejipura flyover is a standalone project. Once work is complete, Indiranagar will see a lot of traffic. Anticipating congestion, we'll be building an elevated corridor that will bifurcate local and long-distance traffic," he said.

Citizens' groups, including I Change Indiranagar, urged authorities to conduct a public consultation first. Some acknowledged the increase in traffic congestion but believed the alignment should pass along Suranjandas Road instead of traversing through Indiranagar 80 ft road & 100 ft road.

Satish Rao of Indiranagar is worried that the work will cause inconvenience to locals.

"The congestion is real but Indiranagar 80 ft road & CMH road are already narrow. During construction, residents will suffer due to dust and pollution. There is no guarantee that work will finish within deadline," he said, referring to Ejipura flyover.

Sneha Nadihal of I Change Indiranagar suggested that a public consultation be held.

"We are weighing the merits and demerits of the flyover. Citizens have also pooled in money to engage a professional consultant to examine the alignment. On the face of it, the project will cause a lot of inconvenience, but I want to look at the project holistically," she said.

End of Gowda's parliamentary stint?

Gowda, from Page 1

JD(S) floor leader Suresh Babu said, "Deve Gowda never asked for his renomination though it was being discussed in public domain as he has raised his voice on crucial issues. Even the prime Minister has respected his seniority."

Party insiders said there were concerns over the nonagenarian's renomination because of age, health and BJP's inability to retain the seat in a midterm poll as it is not in power in Karnataka. Also, Gowda was opposed to contesting from BJP-ruled Maharashtra, arguing Karnataka's border and water disputes with the state could create a conflict of interest and undermine his ability to represent Karnataka.

What next?

The NDA could still field him in November 2026, when 11 Rajya Sabha seats fall vacant in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Gowda entered the Lok Sabha from Hassan in 1991 and represented the constituency until 2019, when he shifted to Tumakuru and lost to BJP's G S Basavaraju. In 2020, he entered the Rajya Sabha alongside Mallikarjun Kharge after both lost the Lok Sabha polls.

Before rising to national politics, the only prime minister from Karnataka, Gowda spent nearly three decades in Karnataka politics, repeatedly winning from Holenarsipur. He became chief minister in 1994 and prime minister in 1996, heading the United Front government.

The Janata Parivar fragmented, leading to the formation of the Janata Dal (Secular) in 1999. The party, at its peak, won 58 Assembly seats in 2004 but shrank to 19 in 2023 after losing ground in Old Mysuru and witnessing an erosion of its Kuruba, OBC and minority base. Yet it remains Karnataka's longest-surviving regional party, repeatedly reinventing itself through alliances.

Gowda's career mirrors the JD(S)' shifting survival strategies. In 2018, Kumaraswamy's swearing-in showcased Opposition unity against the BJP. Five years later, after flirting with I.N.D.I.A bloc talks, the JD(S) joined the NDA. The patriarch, who built his national profile as a secular counter to the BJP, is now among Prime Minister Modi's most reliable regional allies.

H D Deve Gowda: A LONG HAUL

- **May 18, 1933:** Born in Haradanahalli, Hassan district
- **1962-1989:** Elected to Karnataka Assembly from Holenarsipura.
- **1972-76:** LOP in Assembly
- **1983-1988:** PWD and Irrigation minister
- **1985:** Won both Sathanur and Holenarsipura and retained Holenarsipura.
- **1989:** He lost Holenarsipura to G Puttaswamy Gowda
- **1991:** Elected to Lok Sabha from Hassan.
- **1994:** Won Ramanagara Assembly seat and led Janata Dal to power in Karnataka
- **Dec 11, 1994 – May 31, 1996:** Served as Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- **June 1, 1996 – April 21, 1997:** Prime Minister of India, heading the United Front government.
- **1996 September:** – Elected to Rajya Sabha for the first time.
- **July 1999:** Founded Janata Dal (Secular) after split in Janata Parivar; Lost Hassan Lok Sabha seat to G Puttaswamy Gowda
- **2002:** Lok Sabha bypoll- Won the Kanakapura seat defeating DK Shivakumar
- **2004:** Lost the Kanakapura LS to Tejaswini Sreeramesh (INC); Won Hassan LS .
- **2009:** Won Hassan LS
- **2014:** Won Hassan LS
- **May 2019:** Lost Tumakuru Lok Sabha to BJP after ceding Hassan to grandson Prajwal Revanna.
- **June 2020 – June 2026:** Elected to Rajya Sabha with Congress support. Term ends June 30, 2026.
- **Oct 2023:** JD(S) joined BJP-led NDA.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - II

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Horizontal Extension of CATVAC Cleanroom at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru (Civil, Electrical, Airconditioning and other allied works).
2	E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/C/C/01/2026-27 dated:08/04/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 491.72 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Extended upto 16.30 hrs on 15/06/2026
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 19/06/2026
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.31 hrs on 19/06/2026

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:05:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:06–06–2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ. –03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ(3ನೇ ಕರೆ) 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಶೇ. 24.10 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿ: 09–06–2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–06–2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00
ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ : 18–06–2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.30
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 19–06–2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00
ಪಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/141/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

State's fertility rate falls 21% in decade; steeper in villages

TFR, From Page 1

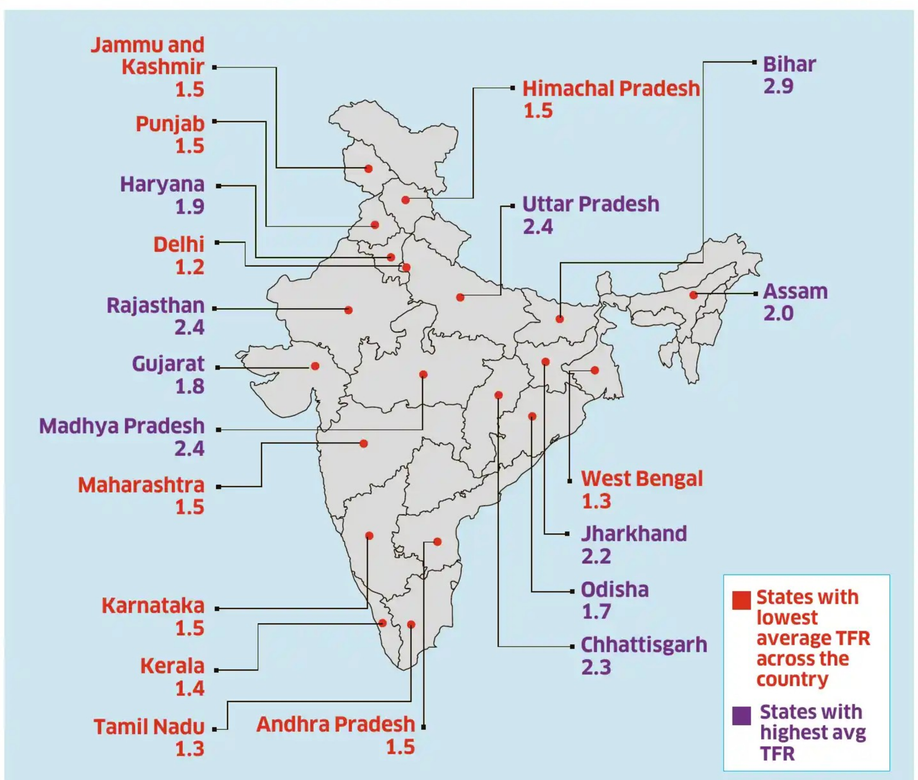
While many think that a declining population would mean that the stress on infrastructure would reduce, Lakshmana said spending on healthcare and providing infrastructure for elderly population would increase.

As a corrective measure, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced a Rs 30,000 incentive for couples having a third child and Rs 40,000 incentive for those having a fourth child in the state. Barring AP, the drop in the rural fertility rate in all southern states was higher than or on a par with urban areas.

Rapid urbanisation and economic growth meant that even the rural population is deciding to have fewer children. "Rural areas are increasingly getting urbanised. With modernisation and increasing literacy rates, women in rural areas too are choosing to have fewer children," another expert said.

Doctors say many couples now want to restrict number of children to one. "Over the years, number of children couples wish to have has slowly reduced to one. There are couples who come to us saying they are not interested in having kids at all. The major reason many tell us is cost of living is increasing rapidly and they cannot afford to spend on more kids," said Dr Swarna M, consultant gynaecologist. Another doctor said parents now want to give comfortable lifestyle for themselves as well as their kids and restrict number of kids they wish to have.

Experts also attributed declining TFR to increasing literacy among women, career ambitions, unhealthy lifestyle and increasing age of marriage.



Suspicious substance explodes in V'pura; 3 injured

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: Three individuals were left injured after a suspicious substance exploded near a pan shop in Mamadapura village in Babaleshwar taluk, Vijayapura in the night on Sunday. Vijaykumar, who was inside the pan shop, Prashant, and Siddu sustained injuries in the explosion, police said. "They were admitted to a private hospital in Vijayapura, and are in no danger," police said.

Vijayapura Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbargi said that the dog squad, accompanied by Scene Of Crime Officer, and a team from the Anti-Sabotage Squad visited and inspected the site of the explosion.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at most places over Coastal, at many places over North Interior & at a few places over South Interior Karnataka.
Forecast June 9: Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain with sustained wind (30-40 kmph) likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30.2	20.4	11.1
Bidar	35.8	23.4	0.6
Vijayapura	35.5	21.0	5.4
Dharwad	30.6	21.6	10.8
Haveri	29.4	22.8	1.0
Kalaburagi	37.4	23.0	0.2
Raichur	36.8	23.6	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.7	24.1	62.5
Karwar	29.8	23.4	2.8
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	28.6	23.5	6.3

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29.5	21.2	10.5
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	31.4	21.9	7.9
Davangere	28.0	20.3	0.0
Hassan	--	--	--
Mysuru	29.0	20.4	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	31.4	21.6	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	42.0	30.0	NIL
Kolkata	37.0	28.0	NIL
Mumbai	34.0	29.0	NA
Chennai	37.0	30.0	NA
Pune	33.0	26.0	NA
Hyderabad	33.0	26.0	NA
Th'puram	29.0	27.0	NIL

BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257
E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com
No: BUDA/PWD/E-TENDER/2025-26/657 Date: 08-06-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal)
Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority (BUDA), Belagavi invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants works in Standard Tender Document through e-Procurement-02 Portal. For further details visit online Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The details of the time table of tenders are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Indent No.	EMD Amount
1	E-Auction for the Deposit BUDA Fund for Maximum one year Period (Around 60.00 Crore) only Public Sector Banks Should Participate.	BGMUDA/ 2026-27/ AUCTION147	Rs. 2,10,000/-

Tender Form as per e-Procurement Portal:
1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Queries: **02-07-2026 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Date and Time to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction: **09-07-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 3)** Start Date and Time of Auction: **10-07-2026 from 10.00 AM. 4)** End Date and Time of Auction: **11-07-2026 at 5.00 PM.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer BUDA, Belagavi
Sd/- Commissioner BUDA, Belagavi
DIPR/Belagavi/386/Adverto/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Holding fire: A pause for clarity

By keeping interest rates unchanged at 5.25% and maintaining a neutral stance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has followed a script without surprises. Although the country's economic environment has changed since the MPC's previous meeting in April, the Committee adopted a wait-and-watch policy, probably to better gauge the scale and direction of the change. The intermittent period witnessed events that risk pushing up inflation, which the central bank sees as one of its primary considerations. The flight of capital from the country has continued unabated. The rupee has been falling steadily and is moving closer to the psychologically critical 100-per-dollar level. Other factors are evolving and in play; their impact on the economy remains unpredictable.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate is within the RBI's tolerance range. However, inflationary pressures are rising. The government has raised fuel prices multiple times since May 15, impacting all sectors of the economy. Other input costs are also rising. The RBI has raised its inflation forecast for the year to 5.1%, significantly higher than the 4.6% projection in April. Food prices are expected to rise if the predictions of a poor monsoon come true. Simultaneously, growth momentum is slowing down. The central bank has lowered its GDP growth estimate for the year from 6.9% to 6.6%.

The RBI chooses prudence as inflation risks, slowing growth, and capital outflows cloud the outlook

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said there was continuing uncertainty about "the duration and intensity of the West Asia war, magnitude of its spillover effects, and the pace of restoration of supply chains." He said it was, therefore, prudent to wait for greater clarity to emerge.

While the RBI maintained the *status quo* on the interest rates and kept its neutral stance, it announced, along with the government, a series of measures to attract foreign capital and slow the rupee's slide. As part of the recovery efforts, the government exempted foreign investors from capital gains tax on government bonds. It has also done away with the withholding tax on their interest income. The RBI, in a parallel move, has brought in a concessional foreign exchange swap facility to incentivise external commercial borrowing. It also expanded the government securities basket that foreign portfolio investors can invest in through the Fully Accessible Route. These measures are intended to counter the outflow of foreign investments and attract them. They also signal the central bank's preparedness for a possible combination of costly oil and capital flight in a difficult geopolitical setting.

The missing guarantee of equal classrooms

That nearly 60% of government schools in North Karnataka suffer from poor infrastructure should shame every government that has ruled the state. Of the 20,000 government schools in the Kalaburagi and Belagavi divisions, around 8,000 classrooms require urgent attention, while hundreds have already been declared unsafe. In Raichur, children are forced to study in overcrowded classrooms because dangerous buildings have been sealed off. Koppal and Dharwad have hundreds of classrooms awaiting demolition and reconstruction. Laboratories, digital facilities, and sanitation infrastructure remain grossly inadequate across the region. The Karnataka government's recently announced eight education guarantees – assured teachers, better infrastructure, digital classrooms, transport facilities, skill education, sports and arts promotion, academic support, and language choice – are laudable on paper. But unless the promise of safe and adequate infrastructure is fulfilled, the rest amounts to little more than slogans.

The neglect is reflected equally in funding. While Shivamogga received over Rs 300 crore for educational infrastructure, North Karnataka districts continue to struggle for basic allocations. In the Belagavi division, a demand exceeding Rs 105 crore for new classrooms fetched barely Rs 10 crore, while repair proposals worth nearly Rs 23 crore received only Rs 75 lakh. Such disparities are indefensible. More importantly, North Karnataka cannot claim to have lacked political representation. The region has produced an extraordinary line-up of chief ministers – S Nijalingappa, B D Jatti, S R Kanthi, Veerendra Patil, S R Bommai, Dharam Singh, Jagadish Shettar, and Basavaraj Bommai – besides national leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge and Pralhad Joshi. The Kalyana Karnataka region was even accorded special constitutional status under Article 371(J) to accelerate its development through targeted interventions. Yet, despite political heavyweights and constitutional safeguards, thousands of children continue to study in dilapidated classrooms, and the region remains underdeveloped on several social and economic indicators. The failure, therefore, is not one of representation but of political will.

North Karnataka's neglected government schools reflect a long-standing failure of political will

The responsibility rests not only with the state government but also with the region's elected representatives. MPs and legislators cannot confine themselves to speeches on regional identity while children study under crumbling roofs. If state allocations fall short, they must leverage Corporate Social Responsibility funds, mobilise local industry, and pursue additional resources. North Karnataka's educational deficit is no longer merely an administrative failure; it is a political failure. A government that speaks of educational transformation must first ensure that every child has a safe classroom to learn in. Until then, the promise of equal opportunity will remain little more than an illusion.

WRONG PRESCRIPTION

ESIC needs reform, not surrender

The scheme's failings are real, but India cannot afford to lose one of its few worker-centric social safety nets

AJIT RANADE

The latest Sample Registration System data should worry every policymaker. In 2024, nearly half of all recorded deaths in India occurred without medical attention from a trained professional. This is up from 18% in 2020. The proportion was even higher in rural India, and in states such as Bihar, it was close to two-thirds. These are not merely mortality statistics. They are a measure of how far formal healthcare remains from the lives of ordinary Indians.

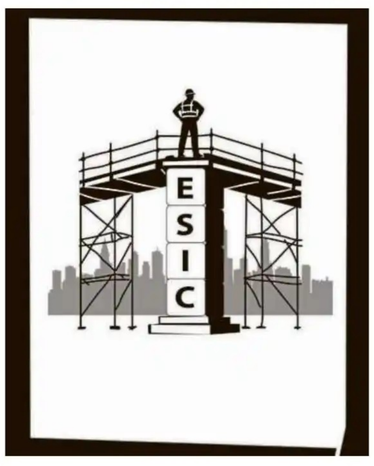
This is the background against which we must examine the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, or ESIC. There is growing discussion about reforming it. Reform is overdue. But reform must not become a coded word for privatisation, outsourcing or handing over a valuable social security institution to private insurers and hospital chains. ESIC is not just another health insurance scheme. It is a social insurance system for low-income workers in the formal economy. It combines medical care with income protection. It covers sickness, maternity, disability, workplace injury, dependants' benefit, unemployment support, and lifelong pension in cases of permanent disablement. For a worker earning Rs 15,000 a month, the total annual contribution is about Rs 7,200, split between employer and employee. For that, the worker and family receive medical care without monetary ceilings, plus cash benefits that no ordinary private insurance product provides.

India is among the world's largest manufacturing economies, yet workplace injuries remain seriously under-reported and under-addressed. A well-functioning ESIC system that ensures quick treatment, wage compensation, rehabilitation, and disability support prevents injured workers from falling into poverty. It also helps them return to productive work sooner. Worker health is productive capital. ESIC reform is, therefore, productivity reform and is essential to sustaining industrial growth.

The scale is large. ESIC covers about 3.84 crore insured persons and, with their families, nearly 14.91 crore beneficiaries – roughly one-tenth of India. It has a large hospital network, medical colleges, land assets, and a reported corpus exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore. By any measure, this is one of the country's most underused public social infrastructure assets.

Its intellectual history is also worth recalling. Britain's National Health Service (NHS) emerged from the Beveridge vision of social security. In India, Prof BP Adarkar designed a similar framework for industrial workers in the 1940s. The ESI Act of 1948 came from that vision. While the NHS became a globally respected public institution, ESIC suffered from neglect and weak governance. That is a failure of execution, not of principle.

The weaknesses are real. Workers



complain of queues, poor information, lack of medicines, slow referrals, indifferent staff, and long delays in cash benefits. Safe in India (SII) Foundation's work with injured workers in Haryana and Maharashtra shows that among more than 8,000 injured workers it assisted, 73% waited over six months for temporary disability benefits, and 78% waited over a year for permanent disability benefits. In Manesar, many workers had to pay privately even for basic diagnostics such as ultrasounds.

But this is exactly why ESIC needs repair. The case for privatisation rests on attractive words: choice, efficiency, competition, and scale. But for low-wage workers, "choice" is often illusory. SII's experience shows that 16% of assisted injured workers were registered with ESIC only after an accident, and 64% received ESI cards only after injury. If mandatory registration itself is not properly enforced, voluntary "choice" will not empower workers.

Nor can private insurance companies replicate ESIC's benefit basket. A private family floater of Rs 5 lakh may cost Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 a year and usually covers only hospitalisation, with exclusions, waiting periods, and sub-limits. It does not cover outpatient care, wage loss, maternity wage replacement, disability pensions, or occupational disease.

India's experience with private healthcare should caution us. Even under publicly funded schemes, private providers can cherry-pick profitable cases, induce unnecessary procedures, dispute reimbursement rates, and leave patients with out-of-pocket costs despite "cashless" promises.

A system reset

The reform agenda should be practical. First, simplify every worker-facing process. Accident reporting, claims, referrals, disability assessment, and benefit tracking must be redesigned around the worker, not the file. Second, publish enforceable service standards: claim-to-payment timelines, medicine availability, waiting time, referral turnaround, and facility-wise performance. Third, strengthen primary care in every major industrial cluster so workers do not bypass the system out of frustration. Fourth, fix human resources: doctors, specialists, nurses, technicians, and hospital managers must be available where workers live and work. Fifth, deploy digital tools for appointments, health records, telemedicine, and real-time claim tracking. But digital literacy should not become a new barrier.

Governance reform is equally important. ESIC must become more accountable to workers and employers, especially MSMEs. Its boards and State bodies need stronger representation of workers, including contract workers. There should be independent performance audits, social audits, actuarial reviews, and public dashboards. Employer compliance must be enforced: every eligible worker should be registered, receive an e-Pehchaan card and have accidents reported on time. The wage ceiling also needs revision. It should be raised and indexed periodically for inflation.

ESIC is not merely a hospitalisation scheme. It links healthcare with workplace injury, wage loss, maternity protection, disability pensions, and occupational disease tracking. That institutional capability took decades to build. India's healthcare crisis is caused by too little effective public provision. When nearly half of all deaths occur without trained medical attention, the answer cannot be to weaken one of the few statutory systems meant for workers. The answer is to make it work.

Fix ESIC. Professionalise it. Make it transparent. Use private expertise where necessary, but on ESIC's terms. Preserve the scheme's public character. A revitalised ESIC can become a model for broader social health protection in India.

(The writer is a noted economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The powder-coated mango mystery

When it comes to cooking, my mother is wonderfully spontaneous

APARNA SREEVATSA

I visited my mother in Bengaluru two months ago. It was late March, and the trip was sudden. I started from Shivamogga early in the morning and called her only after reaching the outskirts of the city. She was delighted to know that I had brought the kids along. By the time we reached home at 10 am, the children were as hungry as I was. Breakfast was ready. My mother announced the season's special: mango *kesari bath*.

I was enchanted. Being a mango enthusiast, how had I never heard of this delicacy before? I had already experimented with raw mango rice and chutney this summer, but ripe mangoes had not yet reached the Shivamogga markets. Bengaluru, however, was already flaunting them.

Bengaluru—the city of possibilities.

Wasn't that the same reason our parents in Turuvekere pushed us to study hard and move there? Bengaluru was where you got good jobs, better opportunities, and apparently, even mangoes earlier than Shivamogga.

As I savoured the scrumptious *kesari bath*, I found myself wondering, briefly, why I had not settled in Bengaluru.

I remembered evening strolls through Gandhi Bazaar. The gigantic guavas looked as though they were jumping with joy, begging to be bought. Even the slightly snobbish shopkeepers somehow added to the glory of the fruits.

The fragrance of jasmine in the market could make you feel instantly alive. My father had ensured that the jasmine garlands for my wedding be brought from Gandhi Bazaar.

It is not that Shivamogga lacks fruits or flowers. But in Bengaluru, the presentation and the marketing always seemed different.

After breakfast, curiosity got the better of me. I quietly sneaked into the kitchen to inspect which variety of mangoes my mother had used. But in the rush of the morning, I could spot neither mangoes nor peels or even the seed. Still, I was relieved that the children had eaten without fuss.

When it comes to cooking, my mother is wonderfully spontaneous. I, unfortunately, do not handle surprises well. Unexpected guests usually trigger panic. Such moments are often accompanied by drought-like conditions in my kitchen — no cashews, no *elaichi*, and no *ghee*.

This time, however, I was fully prepared. I bought ripe Raspuri mangoes, cut them carefully into pieces, and stockpiled all the essential ingredients. The final result was excellent. Jubilantly, I served the mango *kesari bath* to my brood.

My younger son, Appu, took a few bites and said thoughtfully, "Ajji hadn't put mango chunks like you, Mummy... but hers tasted very good."

I immediately assumed my mother must have puréed the mangoes. Still munching on the delicacy, I called her and asked which variety of mango she had used. My mother burst into giggles.

"You came at such short notice," she said. "I couldn't go out and buy mangoes. There was no elaichi at home either. But I wanted to make something sweet for the kids... so I used instant juice powder!"

My mother had clearly won — not just in cooking, but in marketing too. All my senses had been deceived. My husband sat quietly beside me, smiling.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TMC's crisis runs deeper than an election loss

This refers to 'A long, rough road for TMC' (Jun 8). The Trinamool Congress faces a crisis that goes beyond one election loss. With 58 of its 80 MLAs rebelling under Ritabrata Banerjee, now recognised as the leader of the Opposition, Mamata Banerjee appears to have lost operational control of the party. The revolt targets dynastic succession, as Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee's rise alienated senior leaders. Yet the rebels continue to seek Mamata's guidance, indicating loyalty despite structural failures. Voter fatigue with corruption and centralised power hastened this decline after 15 years in office. The TMC split mirrors the Shiv Sena rupture and weakens the wider I.N.D.I.A. bloc at a critical time. Regional parties built around strong leaders risk collapse when succession is mishandled. For Mamata, the road ahead involves legal battles and rebuilding trust from the grassroots.

Babu Crishna, Bengaluru

A veteran deserves better

Apropos 'BJP announces K'taka candidate; no RS rerun for Deve Gowda' (Jun 8), the announcement is likely to have political repercussions, given the alliance between the BJP and the JD(S). While it may be curtains for Deve Gowda's parliamentary innings, the manner in which the BJP chose to make the announcement is debatable. He certainly deserved greater courtesy. The BJP could have taken Deve Gowda and the JD(S) into confidence before announcing its Karnataka candidate and allowed him to announce his withdrawal.

H V K Bhatta, Bengaluru

Peace is elusive

After two months of a patchy ceasefire, West Asia has flared up yet again. The latest escalation highlights how fragile the situation remains. Ordinary people continue to bear the consequences through inflation and global uncertainty. Lasting peace in West Asia appears elusive.

Yashi Bairagi, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The BJP denied a Rajya Sabha nomination to former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda... The constant humiliation heaped upon the JD(S) by the BJP and its repeated acceptance by H D Kumaraswamy for keeping the ministerial chair at any cost is highly astonishing and eye-opening.

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress leader

Before you save the world, make sure your own house is in order.

Charles F Glassman

TO BE PRECISE

PM Modi completes 12 years in office

IN PERSPECTIVE

In defence of individual choice

The law against 'honour' crimes is a start. Social acceptance of marriages beyond religion and caste remains distant

JWALIKA BALAJI AND MANDAR PRAKHAR

In recent months, India has witnessed a series of horrifying killings in the name of "honour". In Uttar Pradesh, a 17-year-old girl was allegedly shot dead by her father and minor brother. An interfaith couple was killed in a village that "never imagined" such a relationship could exist. In Andhra Pradesh's Palnadu district, a father allegedly killed his daughter for marrying against his wishes. These acts punish people who refuse to marry within the boundaries set by caste, religion, community, and family.

Marriage is not merely a private relationship between two people. The law plays an active role in shaping which relationships are made easier, safer, and more rewarding, and which are made more difficult, vulnerable, or illegible. Marriage-related laws undertake a "channelling effect": they steer people towards certain socially preferred forms of relationships by rewarding those forms and making others that fall outside of them more vulnerable. Many people get married primarily because the rights and benefits that a marriage provides are far superior to those offered to cohabiting couples or those in other co-dependent adult relationships.

In India, this channelling effect does not operate only to benefit marriage over other forms of relationships. It pushes people towards caste- and religion-endogamous marriage. In other words, law and society together make it normatively and practically desirable to marry within one's caste, community, and religion.

The Special Marriage Act, which is meant to enable interfaith and intercaste marriages, illustrates this. Unlike marriages under most personal laws, marriages under this Act require a public notice of the intended marriage to be displayed outside the Registrar's office for 30 days, disclosing identity details about the parties. In practice, this notice requirement exposes couples to surveillance, harassment, family pressure, threats, and even violence. 'Honour' killings are the most extreme expression of the consequences arising from such marriages.

It is this danger that the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava) Act, 2026 seeks to address. The Act affirms that every person has the right to make autonomous choices about their life, including the right to marry a person of their choice. It creates a protective mechanism for couples who fear violence or interference: once they inform the District Magistrate of their intention to marry, this information must be sent to the nearest police station. No action can be taken against the couple at the instance of family members, relatives, community members, or any third party. The Act also criminalises actions that harm, kill, or obstruct people from exercising their right to marry in the name of "honour" or "tradition". Importantly, it places a positive duty on the State to protect couples, their dependents, and witnesses from intimidation, coercion, inducement, violence, or threats of violence.

The statute's symbolism

The constitutional basis for such a law is well established. The Supreme Court has repeatedly located the freedom to choose one's partner within the guarantees of liberty, dignity, privacy, and autonomy under Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. In *Shafin Jahan v Asokan K.M.*, the Court held that the right to marry a person of one's choice is intrinsic to individual liberty. In *Shakti Vahini v Union of India*, it rejected the idea that family or community honour can override individual choice. The Karnataka Act gives statutory form to this constitutional position. It recognises that the right to choose a partner is meaningful only if the State also protects people from the violence that follows exercising that choice.

However, this law is just one shining star among the multiple legislative experiments around marriage and conversion. In recent years, states like Gujarat, Haryana, and Uttarakhand have proposed or enacted laws against 'love jihad' or the alleged forced religious conversion under the garb of marriage. They have passed anti-conversion statutes that specifically penalise marriages accompanied by religious conversions unless approval is obtained.

Against this backdrop, the Eva Nammava Act becomes both a symbolic statement and a legal intervention. However, its efficacy heavily hinges on implementation, which requires more than courts and legislatures. It needs a broader social willingness to accept love in its myriad forms beyond the rigid boundaries of caste, faith, and "honour". In a society where marriage is mechanised to enforce sameness, the real struggle is creating a space for difference. This law is just a starting point, but the journey is far from complete.

(Jwalika is a research fellow, and Mandar is an associate fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

As the rising sun fades: Can the DMK reinvent before it becomes irrelevant?

P JOHN J KENNEDY

For over half a century, Tamil Nadu politics was dominated by the DMK and AIADMK, with other parties largely confined to supporting roles. The 2026 election has disrupted that order. More than an electoral defeat, it marks a structural shift in the state's politics. The rise of the TVK has not only ended the DMK's hold on power but also challenged its long-standing position as the central force around which opposition and coalition politics revolved.

The DMK occupied a unique political space for decades. It projected itself as the defender of social justice, federal rights, secularism, minority interests, and Tamil identity. Even when allies disagreed with the party, they accepted its leadership because there was no credible alternative within that ideological space. National parties remained peripheral, while smaller regional parties depended heavily on the DMK-led ecosystem. The TVK has changed that equation in a remarkably short period. The most important development after the election was not C Joseph Vijay becoming chief minister. It was the rapid transfer of political legitimacy toward him. Congress' decision to abandon the DMK overnight and support TVK signalled that a new centre of gravity had emerged. When parties such as the VCK, the Communists, and the IUML followed suit, the message became clearer: the DMK was no longer viewed as the natural anchor of secular coalition politics.

The DMK partly created the conditions for this shift. Many allies had long complained that coalition politics functioned on unequal terms. They were expected to mobilise voters and support the government but were rarely treated as equal stakeholders. TVK capitalised on this dissatisfaction. By offering coalition partners a greater share in governance and cabinet positions, Vijay projected himself not just as a political outsider but as the architect of a new political arrangement. In a state where single-party dominance was long the norm, this represents a significant change. More importantly, TVK has now begun occupying political ground once owned by the DMK. Themes such as social justice, secularism, opposition to centralisation, and minority protection are now being articulated by TVK with growing effectiveness. Among younger voters, especially, TVK appears fresher.

To be fair, the DMK entered the election burdened by anti-incumbency, corruption allegations, dynastic criticism, and perceptions of administrative fatigue. However, its larger challenge is ideological exhaustion.

The DMK now faces a structural crisis on three fronts. First, leadership authority has weakened because electoral success and alliance cohesion, the two pillars of Stalin's position, have suffered simultaneously. Second, alliance erosion has reduced the party's ability to build broad political coalitions. Third, the party faces a widening generational gap in a political environment increasingly shaped by personality-driven mobilisation and media visibility.

The recent developments surrounding Kalaignar Karunanidhi's birth anniversary further reveal the complex situation the DMK is in. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge publicly praised Karunanidhi's contributions to social justice, equality, literature, and Tamil identity. Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K Selvaperunthagai also paid respects at Karunanidhi's memorial in Chennai. These gestures are widely viewed as attempts by the Congress leadership to repair relations with the DMK and to rebuild a broader anti-BJP front. Whether the DMK responds positively remains uncertain. While Congress may still be interested in reviving the relationship, the DMK must now assess its options from a very different position than a year ago.

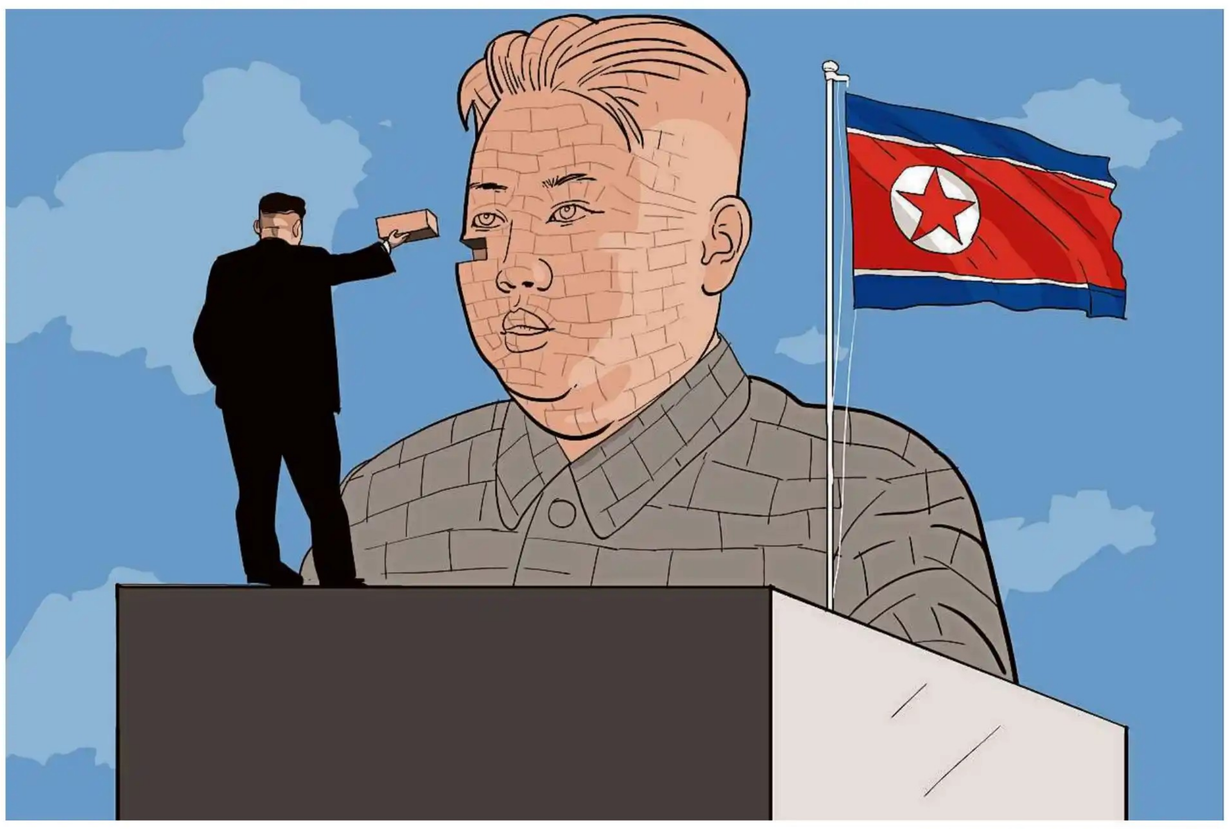
Perhaps there are three options before the DMK. The first is organisational and ideological renewal, which requires serious consideration. The party must decentralise leadership, strengthen internal democracy, rebuild trust with allies, and sharpen its ideological message. A stronger role in national opposition politics could also help recover some lost relevance. A second option is to remain equidistant from both the TVK and Congress while focusing on rebuilding its base as the principal opposition within Tamil Nadu. A third possibility, however unlikely it may once have appeared, is selective engagement with the BJP-led central government. The DMK's ideological opposition to the BJP remains deep, making a formal alliance difficult to imagine. However, issue-based cooperation cannot be ruled out. Having lost its dominant position within the opposition bloc, the DMK may conclude that maintaining channels with a major national party offers strategic advantages. Such a move would also allow it to avoid complete dependence on Congress at a time when the latter's influence in Tamil Nadu has weakened considerably.

The DMK's hardest challenge, however, is psychological. It must confront the possibility that Tamil Nadu's political future may no longer revolve around it, at least for another decade. Electoral defeats can be reversed. Losing ownership of the political narrative is far more difficult. It would be foolish, however, to conclude that the election result has ended Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu. Dravidian ideas remain deeply embedded in Tamil society. What has changed is the location of political leadership within that tradition. The 2026 election may ultimately be remembered not just as the year the DMK lost power but as the year it lost its central place in Tamil Nadu politics.

(The writer is an educator, columnist, and political analyst)

The North Korean leader used the pandemic to ruthlessly tighten his grip on the country. Then he energised its economy by leveraging Russia's war in Ukraine

CHOE SANG-HUN



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

How Kim Jong Un fortified North Korea

During the pandemic, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who had long billed himself as invincible, made a stunning, teary-eyed apology on national television. "I am really sorry," he said, as the coronavirus, coupled with food shortages and international sanctions, was ravaging his country. "My efforts and sincerity have not been sufficient enough to rid our people of the difficulties in their life."

But while ordinary North Koreans were suffering, Kim, 42, seized the crisis as a unique opportunity. Now, he is brimming with confidence. He is recognised at home and abroad as North Korea's most powerful leader to date, surpassing even his grandfather, the country's founder, because he has achieved the status of a *de facto* nuclear power.

He started during the pandemic by shutting down the border with China, issuing shoot-to-kill orders to stop North Koreans fleeing across the boundary. He clamped down on trade and smuggling across the border, forcing his people to rely less on imports and produce more goods domestically. His campaign also targeted the informal markets where many had eked out a living — trading Chinese goods and foreign entertainment smuggled in on thumb drives — ever since the devastating famine of the 1990s. By dismantling these underground markets, Kim strengthened the regime's monopoly over the economy and ideology. Enforcement was brutal. Those caught distributing K-pop or K-dramas were publicly executed.

At the same time, he flouted international sanctions to steadily expand his nuclear arsenal. North Korea built a new generation of missiles capable of striking its nearest adversaries, South Korea and Japan, with nuclear warheads. It is also developing the means to target the American mainland, through nuclear-powered submarines and intercontinental ballistic missile technology.

Kim also seized an unexpected opening abroad. As Russia struggled in its war against Ukraine , he gave it weapons and troops. Moscow reciprocated with weapons technology to help modernise North Korea's air defences and other vulnerable parts of its military, along with badly needed food, oil and even tourists. The two nations signed a mutual defence and cooperation treaty, easing Pyongyang's economic isolation and lifting its international status.

Since then, he has rebuffed any idea of renewing talks with President Donald Trump or reconciling with South Korea. And his tilt toward Russia has prodded China to warm up to North Korea, a neighbour that Beijing views as hard to manage but whose hostility toward Washington gives it diplomatic leverage.

China's top leader, Xi Jinping, arrived in North Korea on Monday for a two-day State visit, his first in seven years. He is expected to underscore China's indispensable position as North Korea's dominant trading partner. The countries are already expanding trade again, resuming train service and adding more flights between Beijing and Pyongyang.

Poverty endures outside Pyongyang, yet analysts say the recent developments have given the government confidence and the public some hope. At his Workers' Party congress earlier this year, Kim triumphantly declared that North Korea was in a glorious and more prosperous new era, a far cry from his weeping apology in 2020. People can now hope to have "both sweets and bullets," the party said, referring to its policy of seeking both economic recovery and military prowess.

To uncover how Kim pulled off this transformation, *The New York Times* spoke with more than a dozen postpandemic defectors, interviewed experts with inside connections, and scrutinised State media and leaked regime documents.

Jiro Ishimaru, the chief editor of the Japan-based *Asia Press International*, which has clandestine correspondents inside North Korea, said, "In the past few years, Kim Jong Un has travelled from hell to heaven." North Korea claims that it defeated Covid without vaccines, losing only a few dozen people.

But as the virus spread, Kim Il Hyeok saw people die in unusual numbers in his neighbourhood in Hwanghae province, a breadbasket region. Authorities were siphoning rice from the region to feed the elites in Pyongyang and the military, he said. There were no Covid tests available so it was hard to tell whether they died of hunger or the virus.

"Families didn't have money for coffins," said Kim, 36, who fled to South Korea by boat with eight relatives in 2023. "Some were not even strong enough to dig a hole." Kim Yu Mi, his sister-in-law, made the two-hour escape with him. The family's escape represented the threat the outside world, especially South Korea, posed to the regime.

North Koreans' trust in the government has been waning since the 1990s famine, according to defectors. As the government's ration system collapsed, North Koreans learned to fend for themselves through informal markets where they traded goods, including those smuggled from China. The markets also became a breeding ground for corruption as officials collected kickbacks from tradespeople.

With those goods came memory sticks containing South Korean shows. North Koreans consumed them with a vengeance — behind closed doors and under blankets for fear of the secret police, who routinely monitored neighbourhoods, Kim Yu Mi said.

In 2010, Kim's coastal town was caught in an artillery duel between the two Koreas. Residents rushed to take down portraits of State leaders to protect the images, a sign of their devotion and loyalty. By 2023, Kim said, about eight out of 10 people in her neighbourhood were watching South Korean shows — a sign of how much had changed.

This shift alarmed Pyongyang. Kim Jong Un was increasingly worried about "non-socialist" content corrupting young North Koreans, likening it to a "vicious cancer." His regime called those who exposed themselves to outside influence "treasonous" and called for "striking them mercilessly," according to a classified document dated June 2024 that was obtained by the Human Rights Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit. While humanitarian agencies reported widespread malnourishment in the country, Kim's waistline ballooned, his weight raising questions about his health.

Defectors said the capital, Pyongyang, often didn't have enough electricity to run elevators. But Kim spent millions of dollars to smuggle a fleet of Mercedes and other luxury cars for personal use, Orlov Trotters from Russia for his private horse-riding tracks and dolphins for a new dolphinarium.

He exerted power by unleashing what South Korean officials called a reign of terror. He executed those who rubbed him the wrong way, including his own uncle, Jang Song Thaek. Still, the State's control had loosened in the decades following the famine. Then the pandemic helped Kim reassert his grip.

Around this time, Ishimaru of Asia Press received covert reports from North Korea of a nation sinking into despair.

Citizens, he said, "saw no way forward, didn't know how they were supposed to live on" — paralysed by Kim's relentless push for a "self-reliant" economy, a tired slogan that took on a devastating new meaning during pandemic-driven shortages.

Kim saw an opportunity after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, offering North Korean troops and munitions. Munitions factories roared to meet demand for Russia's war effort. About 16,000 North Korean troops have fought in the war, testing their weapons in combat and gaining valuable insights into modern warfare, including the use of drones, according to South Korean intelligence officials. North Korea also sent workers to Russia to earn cash for its regime, they said. Military experts fear that with Russian help, North Korea is building its first nuclear-powered submarine and other modern warships, as well as a fleet of military drones.

The New York Times

AI in education: The debate India is not having

ROHIT K GARG

Conversations in many households, especially across urban India, now go something like this: my child used ChatGPT to write an essay. My daughter asked an AI bot to solve her physics problem. My son no longer knows how to sit with a difficult question; he just prompts his way out of it.

Is this generation losing something essential? Is AI making our children intellectually dependent or lazy, capping their mental growth?

It is a legitimate concern, and it deserves a serious answer. But before we answer it, we need to name something uncomfortable: this is a conversation about a very specific child. It focuses on the child with a decent school and enough educational surplus that the question of whether they are becoming too dependent on AI can even be raised. It is a conversation about, at most, 20% of India's school-going population.

For the remaining 250 million children enrolled in government schools across the country, many in districts that appear on no one's priority list – the AI debate looks entirely different. Their problem is not that AI is answering too many questions. Their problem is that no one is.

India's entire public discourse on AI in education conflates two fundamentally different concepts. To understand the real impact of this technology, we must draw a sharp line between them:

Teaching children to use AI: This is about literacy in artificial intelligence, prompt engineering, coding, and understanding how these systems work. In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, every child should understand it, question it, and know how to work critically alongside it. This is a vital skill for tomorrow.

Using AI to teach children: This means deploying AI as a vehicle for personalised, patient, always-available instruction. This is not AI as a homework shortcut or an answer machine. It is AI as the entity that explains the same concept a fifth time without sighing, that is available at 11 pm the night before a board exam, and that meets a child exactly where they are and adjusts in real-time. This is a crucial solution for today.

There are loud, urgent arguments about the first, and barely any about the second. This is a mistake and perhaps one of the most consequential blind spots in Indian education right now.

Education research has known for decades what parents understand intuitively: the single greatest predictor of a child's academic outcome is whether someone will explain things to them one-on-one, at their pace, when they are stuck. This private, extra attention has always been the privilege of households that could pay for it. A child in a government school in a remote district simply never had it.

What happens when you use AI to finally give them that access?

Across Jharkhand, government programmes have deployed AI-powered personal teaching inside district schools over the past few years. It is available around the clock, free of cost, on a basic smartphone. The board results are hard to argue with. Districts sitting at the very bottom of Jharkhand's education rankings began climbing. One moved from 13th to first in Class 12 Science and held that position for two years. Another went from 20th to first in Class 10 in a single year, its pass rate jumping from 87% to 99.3%. The only variable that changed was this: a child who had no one to ask now had someone, every night, without judgment.

So, is AI making our children dumb? In specific contexts, the risk of over-reliance deserves attention. The answer lies in pedagogy: teaching young people to think alongside AI tools and know when to reason through a problem themselves.

But that is a second-order problem. The first-order problem that should genuinely keep us up at night is the child whose question goes unanswered because the classroom has seventy students and one teacher. For that child, AI is not a threat to deep thinking; it is the first real invitation to think at all.

Teaching children to use AI is important. But using AI to teach children – extending patient, personalised instruction into every home where a child sits alone with a textbook – is not merely a technology conversation. That is a question of equity, and we have been far too slow to ask it.

(The writer is the co-founder of an IT company in the education sector)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Rousing welcome for PM on arrival in Moscow

Moscow, June 8
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was given a rousing welcome when she flew in here this afternoon to begin a six-day official visit. She was received at the Sheremetyevo airport by Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev, Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The national anthems of the two countries were played and Mrs. Gandhi took the salute and inspected a guard of honour. Mrs. Gandhi is accompanied by External Affairs Minister Y. B. Chavan and members of her family.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

State Govt decides to ban smoking in public places

Bangalore, June 8
The State Government has decided to impose a ban on smoking in all public places with a view to reducing health risks related to smoking as well as to check pollution. Making this announcement at a function organised to celebrate "Environment Day" here, Chief Minister S M Krishna said the government was examining whether a new piece of legislation will have to be enacted or necessary amendments should be brought in the existing law to supplement the proposed ban on smoking.

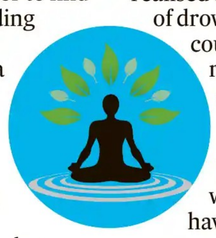
OASIS | NAJIB SHAH

Goodness for the sake of goodness

I must confess that this piece is inspired by a short social media forward, which one normally ignores but which caught my eye for its simple but profound message.

A man was tasked with painting a boat. The painter proceeded to paint the boat green as desired by the owner. The painter was meticulous and unhurried. While painting the hull, he noticed a hole. He paused; he had not been asked nor been paid to do anything other than paint. But knowing that the hole in the hull would be fatal for whoever went into the river, he fixed it. He made no mention of the hole, got paid by the owner for painting the boat and left.

Two days later there was a knock at his shed. He opened the door to find the owner of the boat standing in front of him. The owner hugged him and gave him a wad of notes. He said, 'Sir, you have already paid me.'



The owner of the boat replied, 'This is not for the painting but for having fixed the hole.'

The painter replied, 'Oh, that was just a small work.'

The owner of the boat shook his head and said, 'I forgot to fix the hole or tell you about it. The next day my children took the boat for a fishing trip without informing me. I realised that they could be in danger of drowning. I was desperate but could not reach them. They returned late in the evening, and I was relieved to see them safe. I checked the boat and saw the hole had been repaired. I realised it was done by you; you did not have to do it. And you did not even mention it or take any extra money for it. I am grateful.'

The painter was embarrassed .The owner of the boat said, 'Your work saved my children-and not all the money I give you will be enough for that act of yours. Thank you.'

We live in a world where 'leaks' happen ever so often in a person's life; people go through crises, become vulnerable, and need emotional support. So, even as we try to fix the 'leaks' in our own lives, we should try to fix the 'leaks' we encounter daily in the lives of others. Lend a shoulder, be kind, and do a good deed; goodness for the sake of goodness is always rewarded. Somebody will enter our lives to fix the 'leaks' in our lives too, even without us knowing it. And this then will indeed be a wonderful world – a world full of care and giving.

Consensual adult relationship not proof of bad character: SC

Directs appointment of candidate who was rejected over a case that was settled

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ruled that a consensual physical relationship between two unmarried adults cannot, by itself, be treated as evidence of poor character or moral turpitude.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan made the observation on May 21 while directing the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board to appoint a candidate, Gajula Thirupathi, as a stipendiary cadet trainee police constable.

The board had earlier cancelled his selection, citing a criminal case stemming from a failed romantic relationship.

"Physical relationship between two consenting unmarried adults cannot and should not by itself be a ground to draw an adverse impression about the character of the person in that relationship," the bench said.

The court noted that when such a relationship lasted for a considerable period — in this case, nearly four years — there was a presumption of valid consent, and criminal proceedings initiated on complaints of false promise of marriage were often quashed.

The appellant and a 22-year-old woman were in a relationship for about four years. The relationship did not culminate in marriage, leading to a 2014 complaint accusing him of rape on the pretext of marriage.

The case was later settled before a Lok Adalat in 2015 after both parties reached a compromise, and no charge under Section 376 of the IPC was pressed.

The recruitment board, however, viewed the case as involving moral turpitude and deemed the candidate unsuitable for the police force.

Rejecting this stand, the Supreme Court said not every relationship ends in marriage, and the mere failure to marry cannot be construed as cheating.

It also pointed out that the woman had chosen not to pursue the case and had consented to compound it. In such circumstances, the authorities could not draw adverse inferences about the candidate's character, it said.

The bench added that mere allegations that were withdrawn or not pressed could not form the basis for denying appointment, especially when the presumption of innocence held.

The court clarified that its ruling would not apply if there were use of force or threats, but such elements were absent in this case.

'No NRC, no Census' chorus grows in Manipur Valley

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The chorus for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for "detection and deportation of foreigners" is growing in Manipur's Meitei-dominated Valley amid the ongoing ethnic conflict.

Holding banners and placards that read, "No NRC, no Census," hundreds, including women and school students, took to the streets of Imphal on Monday demanding that NRC be implemented before carrying out the new Census. The protest was organised by at least 14 groups under the banner "14 CSO Kangleipak."

The Centre is gearing up to start the Census exercise from August.

The protesters alleged that the Centre was neglecting the demand for NRC even as the State Assembly had adopted a resolution twice, once in 2022 and later in 2024, for the same.

Meitei organisations have been demanding NRC because "illegal migration from neighbouring Myanmar (Chins and Kukis) has changed Manipur's demography" and posed a threat to the Meiteis as well as other indigenous communities.

Kuki organisations, on the other hand, oppose NRC, claiming that by demanding the same, the Meiteis were trying to label all the Kukis as illegal migrants.

Naga farmer found dead in Kuki-dominated district

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A 57-year-old farmer belonging to the Naga community was found dead with bullet wounds, hours after he went missing during a firing, allegedly by armed Kuki persons, in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Monday.

The victim, Chungjanglung Panmei, was a resident of the Pongringlong Romgmei Naga village in the Kuki-dominated district, which has witnessed Naga-Kuki conflict in the past few weeks.

The Pongmeirong Youth Club issued a statement on Monday afternoon saying that Panmei was an innocent farmer who came under attack from Kuki armed persons in the morning when he went to check the water supply source in the village due to drinking-water scarcity.

"The incident highlights the growing insecurity among Nagas living in the vulnerable border village," it said.

The incident took place after the killing of three Kuki persons — including a pregnant woman — at the Laibol Khullen village in the Kangpokpi district on Friday.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) — an apex body of the Kukis — had alleged the involvement of Naga armed groups in the attack. The Naga groups rejected the allegation.

The police said those involved in Friday's attack had yet to be identified.

The KIM, in a statement issued on Monday, said that the community should not be held responsible because there was no Kuki population where the Naga man was killed.

Meanwhile, the United Naga Council — an apex body of the Nagas — also condemned Monday's killing and alleged involvement of the Kuki armed persons.

A statement from Manipur Police over the incident was awaited.

Kerala on alert as communicable diseases continue to claim lives

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala is witnessing a spate of deaths caused by communicable diseases like Shigella, West Nile and amoebic meningoencephalitis infections.

With the onset of the monsoons, state health authorities have stepped up measures to contain the spread of communicable diseases.

While two deaths due to the West Nile disease were reported in a week, one child died due to Shigella infection, with several other children under treatment for it.

Amoebic meningoencephalitis also claimed one life this month, taking the toll during the year to 32. As many as 132 cases of the infection have been reported in the state so far this year.

With the death of a four-year-old girl, identified as Nila, in Kozhikode due to Shigella and around 126 persons — mostly children — under treatment with the infection, the state health department has sounded an alert.

The infection spreads mostly through contaminated food and water and affects the intestine. Food safety officials have been directed to ensure hygiene at eateries.

A seventy-year-old man and an elderly woman died in Kochi due to West Nile disease, which is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes of the Culex genus.

Amoebic meningoencephalitis had claimed as many as 42 lives by 2025 in Kerala. Even as contaminated stagnant water was considered the primary source of the infection, the exact sources of infection in many of the cases reported last year could not be traced.

According to the state health department data, over 150 deaths were caused by various communicable diseases in the state so far this year.

While amoebic meningoencephalitis topped the tally, Hepatitis-A, Hepatitis-E, dengue fever, and influenza were some other diseases with high death rates.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HERB SAID THAT DAGWOOD IS REALLY SAD THAT THE OLYMPICS ARE OVER
YES, HE REALLY LOVED WATCHING THEM
IN FACT, HE'S STARTED TRAINING IN CASE THEY ADD A NEW EVENT TO THE NEXT OLYMPIC GAMES
WHAT EVENT?
...FREESTYLE NAPPING
Z

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

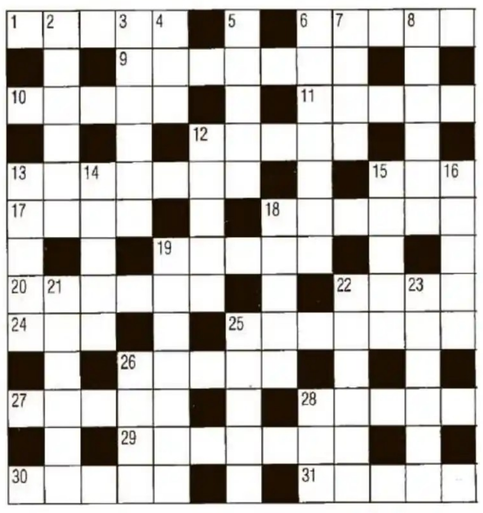
Peanuts

YOU NEED A GIRL FRIEND, THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED
WHY DON'T YOU GO HANG AROUND SOME TELEPHONE WIRES? OR BETTER YET, JOIN A WORM GROUP!
A WORM GROUP! THAT'S A GOOD ONE! HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
I'M SORRY! HEE HEE HEE HEE! I ALWAYS LAUGH! HEE HEE HEE!

Marvin

WHY DO YOU CARRY YOUR LAPTOP EVERYWHERE, BEA?
IT CONTAINS ALL THE PICTURES OF MY GRANDKIDS
...SO I CAN SHOW THEM ALL TO EVERYBODY!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12434



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 They're easy to knit (5)
6 Soft as daddy? (5)
9 There's a Yankee at most rehearsals, we're told (7)
10 Bit of a catastrophe possibly at the barber's (5)
11 Emerges as a leak when you read the footnote (5)
12 Like a special guard with its own roll (5)
13 Beastly naval hero? (3,4)
15 In short, you're the boss (3)
17 Uniquely featured by Baron Lytton (4)
18 Lying, yet facing up to things (6)
19 Some hair-piece worn significantly? (5)
20 Fear of Revolution? (6)
22 Her lust is unbridled (4)
24 Derby, perhaps (3)
25 Martian woman? (7)
26 But it could be more exciting if the lion were after him? (5)
27 Overweight porter? (5)
28 Be the right shaped peg (3,2)
29 Straightened out the grid, maybe (7)
30 Said not to be a low female beast (5)
31 Intimidate the deer around central Austria (5)

DOWN
2 Bad two points on the trot, perhaps (6)
3 Completely taken up by the Doctor on a bit of telly (6)
4 Boy's informal name for a month (3)
5 Colour possibly worn by a bighead (5)
6 Faint when you successfully finish the course? (4,3)
7 They're singularly positive (4)
8 Did dad have one when very young? (6)
12 Possible means of detecting arson? (5)
13 One way in which love can get shut out (5)
14 Ready to change later (5)
15 Did he sing a number in ìGigiî? (5)
16 Redhead apt to flare up when struck (5)
18 Could playing it be bit of a strain? (5)
19 Nelson's girl (7)
21 Such humour could certainly be hearty (6)
22 Pace of a fast rider (6)
23 In use, a dishonest win is injudicious (6)
25 Methinks not writing fluid (5)
26 Go off for a spin? (4)
28 Supplied from the safe deposit (3)

ACROSS
1 Potatoes (5)
6 Prisons (5)
9 European language (7)
10 Untidy (5)
11 Of the voice (5)
12 Warning device (5)
13 Enmity, antagonism (3,4)
15 Stitch (3)
17 Acquire (4)
18 Numerical symbol (6)
19 Cutlery item (5)
20 Musical dramas (6)
22 Assist (4)
24 Belonging to us (3)
25 Surgical stitches (7)
26 Assistants (5)
27 Musical instrument (5)
28 Concur (5)
29 Nourish (7)
30 Applaud with shouts (5)
31 Vulgar (5)

DOWN
2 Spanish dish (6)
3 Deny any connection with (6)
4 Pig pen (3)
5 Threshing implement (5)
6 Spear (7)
7 Soon (4)
8 Idler (6)
12 Smacks (5)
13 Snow house (5)
14 Glandular organ (5)
15 Exceptional, splendid (5)
16 Sheds tears (5)
18 Focal point (5)
19 One who rescues another (7)
21 Deal with (6)
22 Desire for food (6)
23 Myth (6)
25 Chairs (5)
26 Girl's name (4)
28 Curve (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12433

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Flats 8, Hop in 10, Radio(-logical) 11, Reg 12, Cop-Al 13, Stand up 15, Van-ES 18, Si-T 19, Medusa 21, No-min-al 22, Lean 23, M-end 24, Glanced 26, Bargee 29, Dad 31, E-very 32, Retired 34, Usher 35, CAB 36, Di-a-ne 37, Janus 38, Tr-ash.
DOWN: 1, W-or-th 2, Signs on 4, Loop 5, T-Ravel 6, Sal-AD 7, Fires 9, Pea 12, Cuticle 14, D-I'm 16, N-UK-ed 17, Sandy 19, MAunder 20, Globe 21, Nacre 23, Medical 24, G-eyse-r 25, Cat 27, Av- O-id 28, G-runt 30, R-ebut 32, Reds 33, Ran.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Press 8, Dowel 10, Tiara 11, Rot 12, Heart 13, Mineral 15, Eager 18, Rut19, Marine 21, Sanctum 22, Even 23, Plot 24, Derides 26, Upshot 29, Cog 31, Sheen 32, Matador 34, Label 35, Sum 36, As yet 37, Nudes 38, Needs.
DOWN: 1, Boris 2, Veteran 4, Reel 5, Stream 6, Sitar 7, Preen 9, Won 12, Hatchet 14, Run 16, Girls 17, Rests 19, Musical 20, Venus 21, Sense 23, Pegasus 24, Donate 25, Dot 27, Phase 28, Helen 30, Domes 32, Mend 33, Dud.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6927 ◆

		4						
7	3	1	8					
		6			3			8
				8	6		4	
		3	7		5	2		
	6		1	4				
4			5			1		
					7	3	8	2
						9		

medium

SOLUTION TO 6926

3	7	6	9	1	4	8	2	5
8	5	2	6	3	7	4	9	1
4	1	9	2	5	8	3	6	7
2	9	5	1	4	3	7	8	6
1	3	8	7	2	6	5	4	9
7	6	4	5	8	9	2	1	3
9	4	1	8	7	5	6	3	2
5	2	3	4	6	1	9	7	8
6	8	7	3	9	2	1	5	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

A1	A1	A1	G2	L1	M3	M3	Triple Word Score
P3	E1	E1	E1	C3	T1	X8	
A1	A1	R1	S1	M3	L1	O1	
A1	I1	I1	S1	D2	L1	M3	Double Word Score

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	I1	T1	C3	H4	E1	S1	RACK 1 =	72
S1	W4	I1	P3	E1	D2		RACK 2 =	12
S1	T1	A1	L1	K5	E1	D2	RACK 3 =	74
I1	N1	P3	U1	T1	S1		RACK 4 =	11

PAR SCORE 110-120 JUDD'S TOTAL 169

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

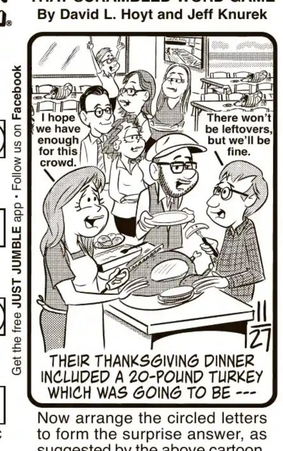
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NLDBA

BTROO

TULIDE

GNULEP


I hope we have enough for this crowd.
There won't be leftovers, but we'll be fine.
THEIR THANKSGIVING DINNER INCLUDED A 20-POUND TURKEY WHICH WAS GOING TO BE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CREST WINCE MODEST DARKER
Answer: The U.S. Mint debuted the Lincoln Penny on the centennial of his birth because — IT MADE "CENTS"

HITORI-3381

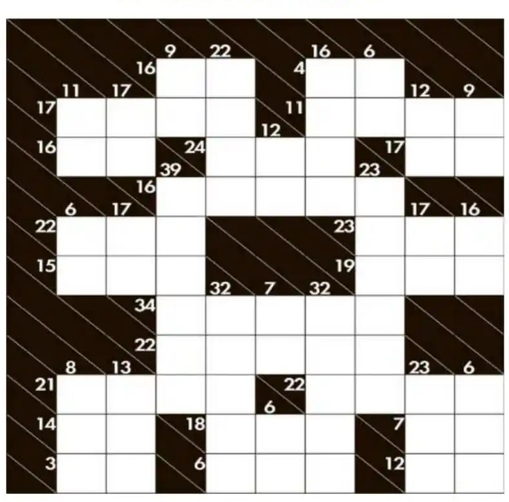
3	6	4	1	7	4	6	8
8	7	8	4	3	2	5	1
7	7	3	7	6	8	1	4
6	2	7	7	4	1	7	5
5	4	6	5	7	3	7	7
2	8	8	6	1	7	3	7
5	1	2	8	7	6	2	3
7	1	7	3	3	5	2	8

SOLUTION TO 3380

3	■	1	6	5	■	4	■
5	1	■	8	■	3	7	4
■	7	5	4	2	8	3	■
1	4	■	5	7	■	2	6
7	■	4	1	8	2	■	5
6	8	7	■	4	■	5	■
■	6	8	2	■	5	1	3
4	5	■	3	6	1	■	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3381



SOLUTION TO 3380

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3941

8	6					5		
				5				
		5	2	1	4			
2				7		3		
							1	
	3							1
	2					4	6	
					7			2

SOLUTION TO 3940

9	6	1	2	5	3	8	7	4
7	8	3	1	4	9	5	2	6
5	4	2	7	8	6	9	1	3
6	7	5	4	3	8	1	9	2
1	3	8	9	6	2	7	4	5
4	2	9	5	7	1	6	3	8
2	5	7	8	9	4	3	6	1
8	1	6	3	2	7	4	5	9
3	9	4	6	1	5	2	8	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India 5th in military spending in 2025: Report

Country has about 190 nuke warheads as of January 2026

STOCKHOLM, PTI

India was the fifth largest military spender in the world, with an expenditure of $92.1 billion in 2025, according to a report by an international think tank, which also mentioned the "unusually severe military crisis" that erupted between India and Pakistan last year.

War-ready

The report says India is believed to have once again "slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal" in 2025

Its modernisation programme focuses on long-range weapons capable of reaching targets throughout China

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal might expand over the coming decade, the report points out

In its annual assessment report launched on Monday, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) also said India has approximately 190 nuclear warheads as of January 2026, compared to Pakistan's estimated stockpile of 170.

"Key findings of SIPRI Yearbook 2026 are that states are increasingly relying on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power — reversing decades of efforts to reduce the numbers and role of nuclear weapons — even as the risks of miscalculation and escalation are rising," SIPRI said in a statement.

The think tank said India is believed to have once again "slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal" in 2025 and continued development of new types of nuclear delivery systems.

"The modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing long-range weapons capable of reaching targets throughout China, although planning also continues to be focused on India's long-standing rivalry with Pakistan," it said.

SIPRI said, "Pakistan continued to develop new delivery systems and accumulate fissile material in 2025, suggesting that its nuclear arsenal might expand over the coming decade."

"The brief armed conflict between India and Pakistan in May 2025 saw India attacking Pakistani air and missile bases that are likely to have nuclear-related roles, but both sides took steps to avoid escalation," it added.

According to SIPRI, the US is by far the largest military spender. At the start of 2026, the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel together possessed about 12,187 nuclear weapons.

Heatwave affecting farmers' crucial work hours: UK report

Other weather extremes caused by climate change add to problems

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Extreme heat is taking a toll on India's agricultural system in more ways than just affecting crops, with farmers losing crucial working hours, the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) has said.

Estimates showed that the negative impact of heat on India's farm sector has been growing.

"Hours lost per worker increased to 648 in 2024, up 18.6% since 2014, with a strong positive long-run trend indicated about 4.5 extra hours per worker per year are being lost to heat stress," the assessment by the UK-based non-profit organisation showed.

This may impact India's food exports in the long run.

The UK imports 40% of its food from other countries. To understand the impact of heat stress on UK food supplies, the organisation looked at working hours lost in 15-climate vulnerable countries "most important to UK food supplies".

Weather woes
Hours lost per worker increased to 648 in 2024, up 18.6% since 2014
Other extremes associated with climate change, including heavy rain and extreme cold, have also affected the country
ECIU said several experts are warning with increasing urgency that 'we risk sleepwalking into a food crisis'

In 2025, India exported 856 million GBP or about Rs 9,850 crore (2025 average exchange rate) worth of food commodities, becoming the third largest food commodity source for the UK, following Brazil and South Africa.

However, the country has been reeling from extreme heat for the last few years.

Other weather extremes associated with climate change, including heavy rain, floods, landslides and extreme cold have also affected the country.

"Extremes are no longer confined to a particular season, with the country's first ever winter heatwave recorded in February," the assessment noted.

'Sleepwalking into crisis'

Gareth Redmond-King, Head of ECIU said, "The UK government's national security advisors, along with the Climate Change Committee, and some of the world's leading food security experts, are warning with increasing urgency that we risk sleepwalking into a food crisis. The threat from climate change is growing, hitting the food crops themselves, but also the workers we rely on to produce them."

"In countries like India where the mercury is currently hitting the high forty degrees Celsius, it's simply dangerous to be outside working...," he said, adding that unless farmers are supported to shift towards resilient, sustainable forms of agriculture, "everyone's" food security was at risk.

Govt: Farmers ramp up organic manure use in kharif season

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Workers busy sowing for the kharif season, in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. PTI

The Central government on Monday said that farmers had purchased 11.17 lakh tonnes of organic manure during the ongoing kharif sowing season — a 3.5-fold increase from the 3.2 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year — reflecting a gradual move towards organic nutrient sources.

Addressing an inter-ministerial media briefing, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers Additional Secretary Aparna S Sharma said the surge in organic manure procurement indicated a positive change in farmers' preference away from chemical fertilisers.

The Central government said the overall fertiliser stock position remained comfortable, with no availability challenges.

Insisting that the government was closely monitoring the situation to ensure smooth domestic supply, she said that the Department of Agriculture had assessed a total fertiliser requirement of 383.9 lakh tonnes for the 2026 kharif season.

As of now, stocks stand at 197.56 lakh tonnes — more than 51% of the seasonal demand, significantly higher than the normal buffer level of around 33%.

"So far, farmers have purchased about 86.65 lakh tonnes of fertilisers, which is approximately 22.57% of the total requirement," Sharma said.

She added that domestic production and imports were continuing smoothly. A total of 147.4 lakh tonnes had been made available through domestic manufacturing and imports following the earlier crisis period.

In June alone, over 25 lakh tonnes of imported urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), and PKS had reached ports, while a tender for 17 lakh tonnes of urea was in progress.

Clearing bills

The government is clearing all subsidy bills as per the budgetary provisions, and the situation is being reviewed at the highest level through meetings of the Empowered Group of Secretaries.

In 2025, nearly 73% of the country's total fertiliser requirement was met through domestic production.

Overall domestic production of fertilisers — including urea, DAP, NPKs, and SSP — had risen from 433.29 lakh tonnes in 2021 to a record 524.62 lakh tonnes in 2025.

Urea production had increased from 225 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 306.67 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

India continues to import substantial quantities of urea and DAP to bridge the demand-supply gap.

The budgetary allocation for fertiliser subsidies in 2026-27 is Rs 1.71 lakh crore. Currently, the maximum retail price (MRP) of neem-coated urea is Rs 242 per 45-kg bag, while DAP is being sold at 1,350 per 50-kg bag.

'How can you occupy plot sans approval?': HC pulls up Pathan

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat High Court on Monday came down heavily on former Indian cricketer and Trinamool Congress leader Yusuf Pathan in an alleged land encroachment case.

The court, while adjourning the hearing for next week, orally told Pathan's lawyer to be "ready for damages (rent)" for encroaching upon public land without any formal order of allotment.

Yusuf Pathan

The division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice D N Ray was hearing Pathan's petition challenging a single-judge bench's order passed last year, which had held him as an "encroacher" of a residential plot in Vadodara and directed the civic authorities for removal.

"How could you occupy this plot? There is no allotment in your favour. You have not paid a single penny of allotment. This was only a proposal for allotment that was sent to the state govt for approval, which was rejected. How can you enter into it? This is sufficient to reject..." the bench orally stated.

The land in question is an open residential plot located next to Pathan's bungalow in the Tandalja area. In 2012, he approached the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) to allot the plot to him at market price, citing family security.

The civic body carried out a valuation and forwarded a proposal to the VMC commissioner to allot the plot to Pathan. The commissioner then referred it to the state government, which rejected it in 2014.

However, Pathan continued to retain possession of the plot. The ex-cricketer claimed that he was not informed of the rejection in any manner until 2024.

The matter was raised in 2024 by VMC councillors.

Pathan had first moved a single-judge bench, challenging a notice issued to him to remove the encroachment from the plot.

The division bench was of the view that since there was no formal order of allotment, no leniency could be granted to the petitioner. The court opined that occupying public property without a legal order was a criminal offence.

Scientist held with MDMA in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A scientist with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) unit in Kerala's Alappuzha has been arrested for the possession of 3.6 grams of the synthetic drug MDMA.

Prasad Sarkale (39), a technical officer from Pune, was taken into custody in Kochi. He was reportedly part of the NIV team engaged in the development of the Covid-19 vaccine.

The police nabbed Sarkale when he arrived at a courier service office to collect a parcel sent by a friend in Pune. The courier firm's staff had become suspicious of the package's contents and alerted the cops.

According to the police, Sarkale earlier worked at NIV Pune. He had a strong academic and professional record. The NIV authorities will be formally informed of his arrest.

Several cases of narcotic smuggling through courier services have come to light in Kerala recently.

The Congress government has also launched an anti-narcotics drive.

Iran, Israel say hostilities on hold after first attacks since truce

Both sides warn of retaliation despite signalling a halt to military action

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran and Israel said on Monday that hostilities between them had halted after the two countries exchanged strikes that threatened to reignite the war in West Asia.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the "fire on that front is contained" hours after Tehran said it had stopped its military action against Israel.

Tehran launched missiles at Israel on Sunday over its ongoing war against Hezbollah in Lebanon, prompting Israel to strike back despite efforts by US President Donald Trump to dissuade Netanyahu from doing so. That triggered another round of Iranian missiles before Tehran announced it would observe a ceasefire.

Iran has sought for weeks to link the wider West Asia truce, in place since April 8, to Israel's war against Hezbollah, warning that attacks on Lebanon would force it to act.

It said on Monday it would attack again if Israel persisted with its strikes in Lebanon. Netanyahu warned in turn that should Iran "make the mistake of resuming attacks against us, we will respond with full force". Earlier, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz insisted that the campaign in Lebanon would continue regardless and said Israel would strike the Hezbollah-dominated southern suburbs of Beirut for each attack on Israel by the militant group.

Trump, who has reportedly grown increasingly exasperated with Netanyahu, had earlier urged both sides to stop "shooting" and said that "final negotiations" towards peace would proceed "subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way".

The Israeli premier, however, said in a televised statement that he had told Trump: "Israel has a full right to self-defence, and we are exercising it as required".

Iran fired nearly 30 missiles at Israel overnight, and Israel responded by targeting military sites in the Islamic republic. No casualties have been reported in either Israel or Iran.

Announcing the end of its attacks, Iran's military command said, "should acts of hostility continue, including in southern Lebanon, much more severe and crushing measures than before will follow". But Katz said Israel's armed forces "will continue to operate in Lebanon against the terrorist organisation Hezbollah".

People inspect the wreckage of a missile that landed near the West Bank city of Jericho on Monday. AFP

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"Both sides, Israel and Iran, are looking to do an immediate CEASEFIRE! Final negotiations on 'Peace' are proceeding, subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way.

Indian workers killed in Dubai road accident

DUBAI, PTI: Seven people were killed on Monday when a minibus collided with a truck that had stopped in the middle of a road in Dubai, authorities said.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Dubai that claimed the lives of several Indian workers," the Indian Consulate in Dubai said in a post on X. The mission said it is working closely with local authorities to provide all possible assistance and support.

Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police, said preliminary investigations showed the truck had stopped suddenly in the middle of Emirates Road due to a technical fault. "The bus driver, who allegedly failed to pay attention and keep a safe distance, then rammed into the truck from behind," he said in a statement.

India issues travel advisory for Israel, Iran

TEL AVIV/DUBAI, PTI: India on Monday asked its nationals in Israel and Iran to exercise utmost caution, remain vigilant and avoid all unnecessary travel to both countries amid the prevailing security situation following the latest exchange of fire between Israel and Iran.

Iran fired dozens of missiles across Israel starting on Sunday evening after Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs without warning. Following Iran's attack, Israel launched strikes on central and western Iran.

"In view of the latest developments in the region, the Embassy reiterates its earlier advice to all Indian nationals to avoid any travel to Iran," the Embassy of India in Iran said in a post on X. It also advised Indian nationals currently in Iran to leave the country by available means of transport.

In Tel Aviv, the Indian Embassy strongly advised Indian nationals to strictly adhere to the safety guidelines and instructions issued by the Israeli authorities. "All Indian nationals in Israel are advised to exercise utmost caution and remain vigilant at all times," it said.

$1,00,000 H-1B visa fee unlawful: Judge

White House says order will be reversed on appeal

BOSTON, REUTERS

A federal judge on Monday struck down a $1,00,000 fee that US President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.

US District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by 20 Democratic state attorneys general challenging a fee Trump announced in September that dramatically raised the cost of obtaining H-1B visas. The administration argued the fee constituted a lawful monetary penalty that the president was authorized to impose under federal immigration law, which gives him the power to restrict the entry of certain foreign nationals when he deems it "detrimental to the interests of the United States."

But Sorokin concluded that the fee was not a penalty but a tax that the Republican president lacked any authorization from Congress to issue and that the US State Department and US Citizenship and Immigration Services could not implement. "Here, the substance and application of the $1,00,000 payment reveal that it is a tax, regardless of what the payment is called," wrote Sorokin.

White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers in a statement said the Trump administration is confident Sorokin's order will be reversed on appeal. "President Trump has clear legal authority to restrict entry of any class of aliens," she said.

Pak's human rights body raises alarm over violence in PoK

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan's human rights body on Monday said it was "deeply alarmed" by the ongoing violence in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), where 11 people, including four police officers, were killed during clashes.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also expressed serious concerns about the so-called regional government's decision to proscribe the Joint Awami Action Committee under anti-terrorism legislation. The JAAC was outlawed on Friday, citing concerns over public order and security.

Quake kills 35 in Philippines

MANILA, AP/PTI: An offshore earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 hit the southern Philippines on Monday, killing at least 35 people, injuring more than 200 others mostly in ruined buildings and sending a 1-metre tsunami into nearby coasts.

Several mostly low-rise buildings collapsed or sustained heavy damages in the hard-hit city of General Santos.

Tsunami damage was reported in at least one southern coastal village. Smaller waves were measured in Indonesia and Palau and as far away as southern Japan.

The quake also triggered a landslide in Glan, a municipality in the province of Sarangani, that killed 13 villagers, Rene Punzalan, a provincial disaster-mitigation official, told the DZBB radio network. Four other villagers died in Sarangani, he said.

The major earthquake was the strongest to hit the Philippines this year, Teresito Bacolcol, the director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said. He warned people to seek advice before returning to damaged buildings and houses, which could collapse due to aftershocks.

Indian immigrant set to lose US citizenship

WASHINGTON, PTI: The US on Monday said it had initiated proceedings to revoke the citizenship of 17 people, including an Indian immigrant. Among them is 50-year-old Neeraj Sharma, the owner of New Jersey-based staffing company Magnavision LLC, who allegedly signed and filed 11 fraudulent H-1B visa petitions, claiming that the individuals would be employed by a global financial institution, the Department of Justice said.

Nearly 150 Indians stranded in Bangladesh prisons

DHAKA, PTI: Nearly 150 Indians continue to languish in Bangladeshi prisons despite completing their jail terms as procedural delays prevented their return home.

A prison official said on Monday that 152 foreigners, including 148 Indians, were languishing in Bangladeshi prisons even though they had completed their jail terms, according to prison statistics published six months ago.

The official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said several of these foreign inmates had completed their terms years ago, however the official identification process alongside bureaucratic or diplomatic inaction prolonged their captivity.

He said a large number of the Indian inmates were detained on charges such as illegal cross-border entry.

Mulling over multiplication: Rote learning or a life skill?

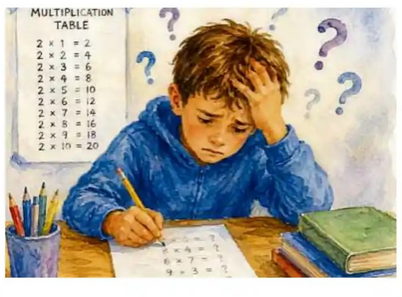
ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

"Why do we have to memorise tables in this day and age?" is a lament that Jasmine Oberoi, a high-school Maths teacher at Strawberry Fields School, Chandigarh, often hears. When they have calculators at their ready disposal, do children still need to memorise tables from 1 to 10 or 12? In fact, Jasmine believes that multiplication tables are the "backbone of mathematics."

Sheloney Moni, co-founder of XYO Maths Centre in Bengaluru, finds that many students are not proficient with their tables across schools and curricula. Growing up on an overstimulated digital diet, children now have flickering attention spans and diminishing patience. As a result, they find tedious activities, such as memorising tables, very challenging. Sasirekha Varadarajan, a teacher at Vidya Mandir, Chennai, notes that children struggle especially with the tables of 7, 8, 9 and 12.

According to Sangitha Krishnamurthi, co-founder of The Teachers Collective in Bengaluru, mathematical competence in the Indian context is associated with superior intelligence. As a result, children who struggle with Maths tend to lack confidence, with the subject evoking anxiety and avoidance in many. Sasirekha adds that proficiency in tables is often equated with mathematical prowess, though the two are quite different.

Automatization of multiplication facts depends on verbal rote memory, which is distinct from the ability to think mathematically. However, being proficient with tables can confer speed, confidence, and the ability to spot patterns in numbers. Jasmine notes that students who have mastered their tables are quicker at understanding concepts like square and cube roots. I



In his book *The Number Sense*, cognitive neuroscientist Stanisla Dehaene says that human memory, unlike a computer's, is associative and reconstructive. As a result, learning multiplication tables becomes especially taxing because "various pieces of knowledge must be kept from interfering with each other." For example, the product of 9X7 must not be confused with the answers for 9X6 or 9+7. And this poses a huge challenge for many students.

Make it fun

Most educators I spoke to felt that children need to understand multiplication as repeated addition before memorising tables by rote.

Sasirekha finds that students schooled in the Montessori method have a more robust number sense and a deeper understanding of the relation between the four basic arithmetic operations. Further, they all agree that tables may be taught through a variety of games and activities.

Jasmine recommends using everyday objects like marbles and counters along with online games, as they provide feedback and instant gratification. Sangitha advocates board and card games, in addition to music, movement and humour, to teach tables.

According to Sheloney, children typically detest writing down mundane columns of numbers but are enthusiastic about learning through drawing. Whether it's putting multiples of three flowers in seven vases or giving bunches of five carrots to rabbits, children respond well to pictorial representations. Using engaging exercises, like a frog jumping on every seventh number, can make it more amusing.

For children who struggle with tables, daily practice is essential, says Sasirekha. The teacher's skill is also important, avers Jasmine, ensuring that practice is both fruitful and fun.

Don't emphasise rote learning

When it comes to learning tables, it is also important to strike the right balance between conceptual understanding and rote learning. If rote memorisation of tables is emphasised, many children develop an aversion to the subject. On the flip side, some children who excel at rote learning may master their tables but don't necessarily know how to think mathematically, observes Sheloney.

More importantly, the educators note that children need to be able to use their knowledge of tables to perform computations flexibly. For example, a student who understands the distributive property of multiplication can easily compute 19X5 as 20X5 minus 1X5. So, none of them thinks it is necessary to memorise tables beyond 10 or 12. Even the mathematically gifted children, who excel at Math Olympiads, focus on finding patterns rather than learning by rote.

Finally, whether students continue to remember their tables depends on how often they use them. As Jasmine notes, vegetable vendors who may not have formal education are often faster than most of us at computing the change for a quarter kilo of tomatoes and half a kilo of onions without relying on a device.

(The author is a psychologist, writer and visiting faculty at Azim Premji University)

Decoding foreign education in India

Foreign universities in India are useful to students who cannot afford to go abroad, but the quality of education needs to be observed, writes Ali Khwaja

Traditionally, the destination for innumerable students aspiring to study abroad was the United Kingdom. After independence, the focus shifted to the USA. Over time, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and a few European countries have been preferred and remain so.

Unlike in India, where competition for admission to reputed universities is very high, many found it easier to get into foreign universities — and they also enjoyed the exposure to a completely different environment. The only restraining factor has been the cost of fees, lodging, and boarding. Scholarships were limited. Many parents took out education loans that had to be repaid over many years.

For those who could not afford foreign education, it remained an unfulfilled dream, and they made the best by competing to get into the top universities in India. Over the years, even national-level institutions have increased their fee structure, leaving many students with very limited choices.

A few universities in India have been offering "twinning" programmes, wherein students are given the option to study for one semester or one year at a foreign university with which they have a tie-up. Some reputed universities offering twinning programmes include SRM, Alliance, PES, and Christ. In most cases, degrees are conferred by Indian universities.

Though this also requires substantial expenditure, it is less than if the student were to complete their entire studies abroad. While it has helped some students, some students have questioned the benefits of twinning programmes, arguing that the limited time abroad did not provide them with sufficient learning or exposure.

Foreign education in India

Lately, there has been an influx of foreign universities coming into India. They offer opportunities to pursue global education and degrees without living abroad, and the overall cost is lower than that of studying abroad. This has opened a new chapter in higher education in our country.

However, many factors need to be considered before enrolling: the credibility and reputation of the particular university, recognition of its degrees in India, the quality of its education, whether a substantial number of its faculty will be teaching here, its fee structure, and the international exposure a student gets.

Here, students may not gain firsthand experience with international culture, classmates, and diversity management, which builds adaptability to work anywhere in the world and with companies located in any country. Also, many students attend foreign universities to use their time there as stepping stones to employment in those countries, since they can make contacts and gain broad knowledge during their studies.

On the positive side, these universities are pathways to study courses or subjects not currently available in India. They are also a boon to students who do not fit into the Indian system of rote learning, who wish to explore beyond the textbook and curriculum, and those who wish to study a combination of subjects beyond the routine or traditional ones. If many international teachers stay for extended periods at the Indian campus, the students will benefit from their knowledge and experience. Similarly, if students are given opportunities to visit or interact with the parent campus, they would be able to gain wider learning.

Compared to studying abroad, admissions to these institutions located in India will be far simpler and faster, and students can conveniently visit the Indian campuses and get a first-hand idea of what to expect. Visa, insurance and travel formalities get eliminated.

However, this development is occurring for the first time. Institutions like the first five IITs were established by the five big superpowers of that era, which is what made them outstanding. But those countries only helped set up the institutions and provided know-how and faculty in the initial years, while management and ownership remained with the Indian government.

Hence, the advent of foreign universities is unprecedented, and one may need to adopt a 'wait and watch' approach before forming an opinion about the type of education students will receive here, compared with existing reputed Indian universities.

Who will it benefit?

These courses may be more attractive to those who are clear that they wish only to pursue an international education and then seek employment in India, since they will be right here throughout their studies and can develop contacts with employers. At times, students who study abroad need to readjust themselves when they come back, and even find the procedures quite alien compared to what they had got used to abroad. This is also eliminated.

Many foreign universities have already announced the commencement of their courses for the academic year 2026-27, offering both UG (3-year and 4-year) and PG programs, which are based on their curriculum in the parent country.

Some of the prominent ones that have already opened admissions are the University of Bristol, the University of Aberdeen and the University of York, located in Mumbai, and the University of Liverpool in Bangalore (all from the UK), Illinois Tech University from the USA with its campus in Mumbai, and Victoria University from Australia in its campus in Delhi NCR.

They have announced that their fee is around Rs 20-30 lakhs per annum, compared to three or four times that amount for overseas studies. Also, the uncertainty of foreign exchange fluctuations is eliminated, and so are expenses for visa processing and health insurance.

If all goes well, this will usher in a new era of diversified education in India.

BULLETIN BOARD

Coding content creator

Hudi Enterprise is hiring a coding content creator intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of CSS, HTML, JavaScript, Python, and SQL can apply by July 4. The stipend is Rs 7,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/64c66c.

Full stack development

Seventh Ray Consulting and Technology Private Limited is hiring a full-stack development intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Amazon EC2, Figma, Java, Next.js, and PostgreSQL can apply by July 4. The stipend is Rs 5,000-10,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/1fb62e.

Content writing

BoxUp Luxury Gifting is hiring a content writing intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of blogging, creative writing, good spoken and written English, SEO, and SEM can apply by July 3. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000 / month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/67c270.

UI/UX Design

Talview is hiring a UI/UX design intern in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of Balsamiq, Figma, InVision, Sketch, UI/UX Design, and Wireframing are invited to apply by July 1. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/26f2fb.

Social media internship

MJ Marketing Consultancy is inviting applications for a 3-month remote Social Media Marketing Internship for students and fresh graduates interested in content creation and digital marketing. Interested candidates can send their resumes to hr@mjmarketingconsultancy.in.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Internship at Ministry of Women and Child Development

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, is offering its August–September 2026 Internship Programme, providing women with an opportunity to gain exposure to policy-making, governance, and programmes related to women and child development. Women students, research scholars, social activists, and teachers aged 21–40 years. Preference is for applicants from non-tier-1 cities and rural areas. Duration: August–September 2026. Deadline: June 10. Apply at https://wcd.intern.nic.in

PMRC Scheme 2026

The Ministry of Education's PMRC Scheme seeks to bring distinguished Indian-origin researchers, scientists, technologists, and industry professionals from around the world to contribute to India's research and innovation ecosystem. Focus areas include AI, supercomputing, quantum computing, semiconductors, cybersecurity, healthcare and MedTech, biotechnology, energy and climate change, advanced materials, space and defence, and other national mission-aligned domains. Young Research Fellows (up to 5 years post-PhD), Senior Fellows (5–10 years post-PhD), and Research Chairs (10+ years post-PhD). Apply between June 1 and 15 at https://pmrc.education.gov.in/

BITS Pilani PhD-DRIVE

BITS Pilani's PhD-DRIVE is a doctoral programme aimed at deep-tech researchers, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs, helping translate research into startups and real-world solutions. Benefits include a monthly fellowship of Rs 55,000–60,000, seed funding for prototypes, incubation support through Technology Business Incubators, mentorship from industry leaders and investors, and the opportunity to launch a startup during the PhD. Eligibility: B.E./B.Tech., M.Sc., M.E./M.Tech. or equivalent with at least 60% marks. Candidates with an entrepreneurial mindset are encouraged to apply. Deadline: June 25. Contact: sire@bits-pilani.ac.in

Research in AP

The Institute for Research on Andhra Pradesh (IRAP) has invited applications for its inaugural Summer School on the Political Economy of Andhra Pradesh. The programme is open to PhD scholars, early-career academics, independent researchers, and activists involved in social movements or voluntary organisations. Participants will engage in lectures, workshops, and discussions on themes such as Andhra Pradesh's history, economic development, land and agrarian issues, urbanisation, regional disparities, caste, religion, gender, and Adivasi issues. Chosen participants will receive boarding and lodging support. Apply with a CV and a one-page note outlining your research interests or ongoing work related to AP to irap.apresearch@gmail.com by June 30.

RELEVANT RITUAL

Homework: Not a burden but a building block

ALVINA CLARA

Aryan, a grade 5 student, gets a lot of homework at school. Most evenings, he is juggling his Maths worksheets, Science assignments and English grammar exercises. As a result, he is exhausted before bedtime. His parents feel for him and wonder if these efforts or struggles are truly worth it. However, over time, his parents noticed a stark change — he was getting better at managing his time and tackling problems on his own. That is when it clicks: homework is not just about the burden of completing assignments; it is about building skills for life.

For most parents and students, though homework can feel like a burden for now, the skills students learn — discipline, time and resource management, and focus — are the ones that will open doors tomorrow. Homework is one of the most debated topics in education. While some parents believe it is an essential part of learning, others feel it adds unnecessary stress. But when we strip away the exhaustion and frustration and look at the bigger picture, homework, when done right, teaches a child to juggle several tasks, manage time, and foster long-term development.

Also, research has shown that students who regularly complete their homework achieve better grades in subjects such as English, Maths, and Science. Students who regularly invest two to three hours a night in focused study tend to perform significantly better. But the benefits go far beyond report cards. Homework builds core life skills and planning abilities that help students transition from school to work life. Here are several advantages of homework.

- **Practice to perfection:** Repetition may feel arduous, but it is a key to building mastery. When a child revises a concept at home — whether it's solving algebraic equations or solving verb exercises in English — they move from surface-level understanding to deep, practical knowledge. This discipline of practice and concentration on tasks is something they learn to carry into any vocational or professional career.
- **Managing time and balancing tasks:** Homework comes with deadlines. Learning to prioritise assignments and adhere to deadlines early teaches children to take ownership of their work at an early age. This also helps them think independently, prioritise tasks, and develop problem-solving skills. These are not just academic skills; they are essential life skills. The student who learns to manage their homework in class 8 is the professional who manages their projects seamlessly when they get a job.
- **Nurturing home-school partnerships:** Homework acts as a support network. It helps parents understand what their child is learning and how their child learns best. It gives teachers insight into the students' abilities to cope and which areas require more attention. When a parent sits down to help, they understand their child's pace of learning — conceptual clarity, writing speed, and gaps to address. By facilitating and enabling their child, they are forging a partnership with the school in their child's development.
- **Revision at home:** Every child thrives at a different pace in a classroom. Some do exceptionally well at school, while others require rigorous practice and reading at home. Homework provides an opportunity to learn in a quiet, comfortable space, which can significantly accelerate understanding.
- **Researching and utilising resources:** From using the internet for research to visiting the local library, homework teaches children how to seek out information independently. This is a skill that will serve them long after they leave school—whether they are applying for a job, learning a new hobby, or solving a dilemma at work.
- **Fitting into a routine and discipline:** Regular homework establishes a pattern. When exams arrive, children who are used to studying at home find it much easier to switch into revision mode. The routine is already there; they simply need to intensify it.
- **Extra time to catch up:** Every child learns at a different pace. A 40-minute class period may not be enough for some to fully understand or grasp a concept. Homework gives them the freedom to spend extra time on subjects they find difficult, with their parents' support. This additional attention and effort can make all the difference in scoring high during exams.

Happy mother helping daughter with homework Mother helping daughter with homework

How parents can help

Homework is an integral part of the learning process, and as parents, we can kindle in them a joy of learning beyond school hours. Here are a few practical ways parents can support their children without doing the work for them.

- **Create a comfortable learning space:** A well-lit, quiet space stocked with supplies makes a world of difference.
- **Set a routine:** Whether your child works best in the morning or after a short post-school nap, find a schedule that suits their natural rhythm.
- **Be a guide:** Explain and clarify concepts, guide them through tough problems, but let them arrive at the answer themselves. That is where the real learning happens.
- **Praise the effort:** Acknowledge the hard work and recognise efforts and progress. A simple "I'm proud of you solving this intricate problem" can motivate a child more than you think.
- **Make a plan:** On heavy homework days, help your child break down their tasks into manageable sections. A clear plan reduces anxiety and improves focus.

Homework is not just about extra learning after school hours; it is about building a foundation of discipline, curiosity, and independence. When a child like Aryan learns to push through the frustration of solving exercises and arriving at answers to problems, he is not just learning subjects; he's equipping himself with resilience.

At its best, homework brings together students, parents, and teachers in a shared effort to help children grow. So the next time your child asks, "Why do I have to do this?" you can tell them: because the habits you build today are the building blocks of your tomorrow.

(The author is an educator based in Dubai)

Private school teachers in the doldrums

Private schools are viewed more as business ventures, and their teachers are often not treated like government teachers, writes

Quarratul Ain Ifrah

The Economic Survey 2024-25 states that private schools account for 22.5% of total schools, enrol 32.6% of students and employ 38% of India's teachers. The statistics are based on the UDISE+ categories of Government, aided, and 'Private Unaided Recognised' schools, where a school that does not receive any grant from the government but is recognised by a board of education is considered 'private'.

Though they comprise such enrolment and employment, these private schools are viewed more as business ventures than proper nation-building schools. The issues and exploitation of teachers under them are overlooked as part of the contract between the school and the teacher. But further legal and social questions about the government's responsibility for a major part of the country's workforce remain. The term 'private teacher' itself includes not only teachers from the elite and local schools, but also nursery teachers, home tutors, coaching centre guides, online educators, etc, that come nowhere in the reckoning of what we count as 'teachers' on a policy-making stage.

Most of them neither have job security nor a minimum-wage guarantee, so for them, financial stability is a fragile concept. An education consultant from SchoolSupport, a school management assistance firm, writes that tier 2 and 3 teachers are paid as little as Rs 4,000-8,000 per month, describing this as much less than a private bus driver earns. The salaries may also be subject to unexplained delays or cuts, and there is no access to social security benefits, provident funds, gratuity, or health insurance of any kind. Nearly 40,000 teachers lost their jobs in Karnataka during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many worked unprecedented hours in online classes, often unpaid or underpaid.

Preeti Jewargi, a private teacher in Kalaburagi, speaks of the sacrificial crossover in small schools, where both the management and the parents personally confide their financial difficulties to them. She says, "We understand their issues, but we also speak regularly to parents who cannot pay fees. There is nothing we can do except adjust ourselves and work for the children's future."

The TISS Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education Report of 2023 states that private school primary and secondary teachers earned about 35% of government teachers' salaries, while long-contract private school teachers earned about 45-50%. 40% of private school teachers and 23% of government school teachers felt they were paid less.

Raza Manvi, from All India Ideal Teacher Association (AIITA) Karnataka, explains the recurrent concept of 'community service' associated with the work ethic of teachers. "Teachers cannot survive on service-mindedness alone; they deserve fair salaries, health security, and basic facilities to lead a dignified life," he says. Laws like the Delhi School Education Act 1973 and the Karnataka Educational Institutions Rules, 2005, explicitly state that teachers in unaided private schools should receive pay and benefits comparable to those of government teachers and establish a minimum wage, but their implementation remains vague as school managements continue to assert administrative autonomy.

The TMA Pai Case of 2002 is a landmark Supreme Court judgment that determined the scope of 'autonomy', especially regarding fees and remuneration, and reduced the state's intervention to only 'reasonable regulations'. The School management listed financial challenges and the possibility of a huge increase in fees if a minimum wage law is implemented, which parents may not be able to afford. Other aspects of the working environment, student-teacher ratios, and the provision of casual and maternity leave are also precarious.

There is also a matter of the imbalance between the expected work and the employability skills provided for an average private teacher. In most cases, the requirement is simply a graduate degree in the relevant subject, and no additional training is available for the job of teaching itself, as is provided for government teachers.

The belief that just content knowledge is enough for a class of 60 students and that high academic excellence is expected of each of them has doomed teachers to a career of pressure.

Though private teachers' issues warrant critical discussion, the welfare of government school teachers is also in poor shape. "Though resources in government schools are available, they are available very late. Trainings are provided at the end of the academic year, or physical inspections and reviews fail to provide any constructive feedback. Activity transaction, general hygiene and sanitation needs to be attended to," a teacher trainer from Kalaburagi says.

(The author is an English literature student based in Kalaburagi)

NAAC A+
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY
RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
Join the Ramaiah Family and Make Your Mark
22nd Rank of Faculty of Dental Sciences
50th Rank of Ramaiah Medical College
56th Rank of Faculty of Pharmacy

RUAS EXPANDS
WITH ITS NEW CONSTITUENT CAMPUS AT
ELECTRONIC CITY BENGALURU
RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
RUCE
(A Constituent College of Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences)

Programs Offered
B. Tech. in CSE | AI&ML | ECE | ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING (VLSI DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY)
In collaboration with University at Albany, State University of New York

BUILD YOUR CAREER WITH...
- ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
- MEDICAL
- SOCIAL SCIENCES
- LAW
- PHARMACY
- ART & DESIGN
- NATURAL SCIENCES
- DENTAL SCIENCES
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- MANAGEMENT & COMMERCE
- LIFE & ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
- NURSING EDUCATION & RESEARCH
- HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & CATERING TECHNOLOGY

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026
Apply through RUAS-AT for admissions in UG, PG & B.VOC programmes
B.Tech admissions are based on COMEDK /JEE/ KCET scores
Applications Open for Ph.D. programmes
SCAN QR TO APPLY
80 1000 4444 | admissions@msruas.ac.in | msruas.ac.in

GNANAGANGOTHRI CAMPUS (GGC)
New BEL Road, MSR Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 054

RAMAIAH TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS (RTC)
#470-P, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya 4th Phase, Bengaluru – 560 058

RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (RUCE)
No.15, Bommasandra Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Jigani, Bengaluru - 560 105

AVIATION TRAINING
THROUGH SIMULATION
and Artificial Intelligence Technologies

BUILD YOUR CAREER IN AVIATION
BBA AVIATION MANAGEMENT
B.Sc. AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
B.Com
BCA
BBA

Learn with advanced simulation and Artificial Intelligence Technologies for real-world aviation careers.

GLOBAL CAREERS | INDUSTRY READY | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY
IATA AUTHORIZED TRAINING CENTER

HBS
HINDUSTAN BUSINESS SCHOOL
(A unit of EveHans Academy)
Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to Bengaluru North University

8971404357
9740037853
Ashwathnagar, Chinnappanahalli, Marathahalli, Bengaluru - 560037
E: admissions@hindustanacademy.edu.in
SCAN TO ENQUIRY
www.hindustanacademy.edu.in

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR LEARNING (NAFL)
An International School
Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru

Nurturing a Legacy of Excellence
Since 1994

National Academy for Learning (NAFL), Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru, continues its long-standing tradition of academic distinction with exceptional Cambridge IGCSE and A Levels and CISCE's ICSE and ISC 2025-26 results.

Founded in 1994 as part of the prestigious NPS Educational Institutions, NAFL has built a reputation for disciplined learning, strong values and consistently high academic standards.

Our students' outstanding performance is the result of a culture that emphasises conceptual clarity, individual mentoring, intellectual curiosity and holistic development.

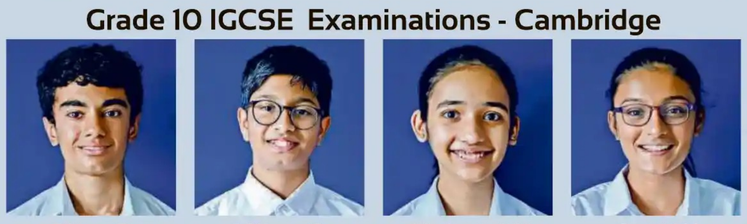
For over 30 years, NAFL has remained committed to shaping learners who excel with competence, confidence and integrity — in classrooms, universities and beyond.

Dr. K.P. Gopalkrishna
Founder, Chairman
NAFL, TISB, GMC,
NPS Educational Institutions

Dr. Bindu Hari
Vice Chairperson
NAFL, TISB, GMC,
NPS Educational Institutions

THE TOPPERS 2025–26

Grade 10 IGCSE Examinations - Cambridge



Dhruv B 9A* | Vihaan S 8A* | Akshara A Y 7A* 1A | Gauri J U 7A* 1A

Grade 11 Advanced Subsidiary - Cambridge

Sanjay S 4 a | Sridhar A 4 a | Aditya R R 3 a | Avni P 3 a | Rishita S 3 a | Dheetya S 3 a

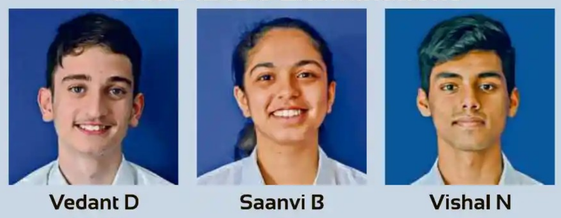
Grade 12 Advanced Levels - Cambridge

Damini D B 3A* 1a | Shashank R 3A* 1a | Shashwath U 3A* 1A | Hemish D 3A* 1A

Grade 10 ICSE Examinations

Akshita L 99% | Mithil K L 98.6% | Kanishk P 97.4%

Grade 12 ISC Examinations



Vedant D 99.5% | Saanvi B 99% | Vishal N 99%

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026-27
Montessori to Grade XI

Registration forms are available on the school website at www.nafl.in

NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR LEARNING
III Cross, III Block, III Stage, Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru – 500079 Website: www.nafl.in

naflnationalacademyforlearning

+91-80-23239281
info@nafl.in

Scan to know more

OUR INSTITUTIONS

NPS Rajajinagar | NPS Indiranagar | NPS Koramangala | NPS HSR | NPS-NAFL NORTH Next to New Airport | NPS Global Montessori Rajajinagar | NPS International Mysore | NPS Gopalapuram Chennai | NPS International Perumbakkam, Chennai | NPS Global Montessori Gopalapuram, Chennai | NPS International Singapore

Biz Bytes

India records $7.1 bn CAS in Q4 FY26

MUMBAI, PTI: India reported a current account surplus (CAS) of $7.1 billion, or 0.7% of GDP, in the January-March quarter of 2025-26, according to RBI data on Monday.

The surplus stood at $13.7 billion, or 1.4% of GDP, in fourth quarter of 2024-25. However, for the entire fiscal, the CAD stood at $25.2 billion, or 0.6% of GDP, compared to $22.9 billion, or 0.6% of GDP, during 2024-25.

"Net services receipts increased to $60.4 billion in Q4 2025-26 from $53.3 billion a year ago," according to RBI's data on Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the fourth quarter (January-March) of 2025-26.

Infy CFO joins Cars24 board as ind director

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka has been appointed independent director on the board of used-car marketplace Cars24.

Cars24 Co-founder Ruchit Agarwal first met Jayesh in 2004, when he moved to Bengaluru from a small city and joined Infosys as an analyst. "Everything felt too big. You look around for people you want to be like. The Infosys finance team had a few. Jayesh was one of them. I was nowhere near Jayesh's orbit. But in organisations like that you quickly figure out who people rely on when things actually matter. His name came up often. I knew it well before I ever had a reason to. Two decades later, he is joining the board of a company I helped build," he said in a LinkedIn post.

Grasim to invest Rs 3,094 crore in sustainable fibre expansion

To take firm's cellulosic fibre capacity beyond 1 mn TPA

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Aditya Birla Group flagship company Grasim Industries has approved a fresh investment of Rs 3,094 crore to expand its Lyocell fibre manufacturing capacity at Harihar in Karnataka, strengthening India's position in the fast-growing global market for eco-friendly textile materials.

The company will set up Phase-II Lyocell capacity of 110,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) at its Harihar facility in Davanagere district.

The expansion will comprise two production lines of 55,000 TPA each, with the first line expected to be commissioned in 2028 and the second by 2030.

The investment comes even as Grasim is already constructing a 55,000-TPA Phase-I Lyocell plant at the same location, scheduled for commissioning by mid-2027. Once both phases are completed, Grasim's total Lyocell capacity will reach nearly 210,000 TPA, placing it among the world's largest producers of the speciality fibre.

The move reflects the growing global shift towards sustainable and high-performance fibres as apparel brands and textile manufacturers seek alternatives with a lower environmental footprint.

Announcing the investment, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said the project reinforces the group's strategy of investing ahead of demand in sectors that will shape India's future industrial competitiveness.

GRASIM'S GREEN BET

Rs 3,094 cr investment

Phase-II Lyocell plant at **Harihar, Karnataka**

Capacity: **110,000 TPA**

Expansion timeline
- Two lines of **55,000** TPA each
- Start-up in 2028 and 2030

Global scale
- Phase-I (55,000 TPA) due by **mid-2027**
- Total Lyocell capacity to reach ~**210,000** TPA

Sustainability push
- **Eco-friendly** fibre made via closed-loop process
- Speciality fibres to form ~**35%** of portfolio by 2030

"The investment is a vote of confidence in the scale and promise of the Indian market. **Kumar Mangalam Birla,** Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

Make in India

"The investment is a vote of confidence in the scale and promise of the Indian market. It aligns with the aspirations of Make in India and helps position the country as a stronger and more-competitive player in the global textile value-chain," Birla said.

He added that the expansion would take Grasim's overall cellulosic fibre capacity beyond 1 million tonnes per annum, further consolidating its position as a global leader in manmade cellulosic fibres.

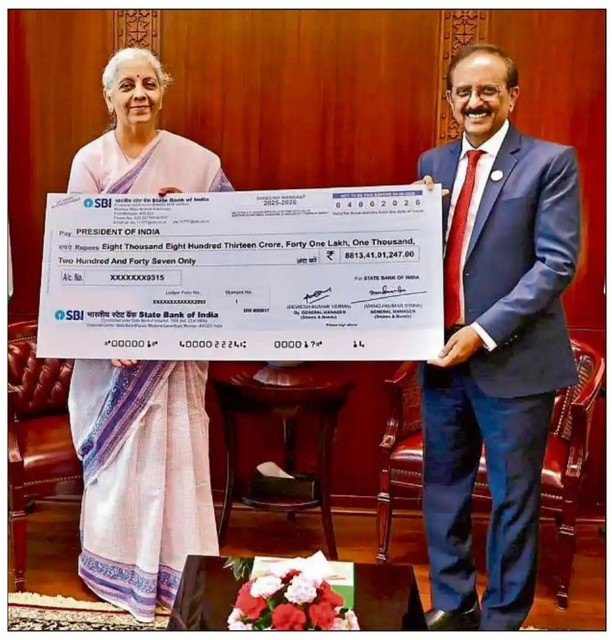
Lyocell is increasingly emerging as a preferred fibre for apparel, home textiles and technical textile applications because of its durability, comfort and environmentally-efficient manufacturing process. Produced through a closed-loop system that recycles solvents, the fibre is widely regarded as one of the more sustainable alternatives available to the textile industry.

Vadiraj Kulkarni, Business Head, Grasim Pulp & Fibre, said the investment would strengthen the company's presence in the high-value speciality fibre segment and support the transition towards lower-impact textile materials.

The expansion is also expected to increase the share of speciality product — including Lyocell, Modal, dope-dyed and recycled fibres — in Grasim's portfolio to about 35% by 2030.

Industry observers view the investment as part of a broader transformation underway in the global textile sector, where sustainability, traceability and environmentally responsible manufacturing are increasingly becoming key drivers of demand and investment decisions.

GRAND SUM



State Bank of India Chairman C S Setty (right) presented a dividend cheque of Rs 8,813 crore for 2025-26 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday. PIC: X

TCS' biz unit to help firms build AI-Native GCCs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tata Consultancy Services on Monday announced the launch of its Global Value & Innovation Centres (GVIC) Business Unit to help enterprises establish AI-native GCCs (global capability centres) and transform existing GCCs into a value- and innovation-led operating model.

K Krithivasan

To lead this initiative, TCS has appointed Soumen Roy as Head. During his three decades of experience, Soumen has held several leadership roles across geographies and industries, and most-recently, was the Country Head for TCS Canada, the company said in a statement.

Soumen will report to TCS CEO and MD K Krithivasan.

GCCs are evolving from delivery hubs into strategic enterprise assets that own products, platforms, and business outcomes. As AI and digital technologies reshape enterprise priorities, they are expected to drive innovation, modernisation, and measurable value. With global investments in GCCs rising, TCS is launching this Business Unit with an end-to-end model for the AI era.

TCS said GVIC offers flexible services across the full lifecycle, enabling clients to move seamlessly from strategy and setup to scaled operations and AI-led transformation.

"With TCS GVIC, we are bringing together TCS' deep experience across the GCC lifecycle with our strengths in AI, engineering, talent, and operations to build high-impact, future-ready global centres that deliver sustained business value for clients," Krithivasan said.

TCS is a partner to over 150 enterprises worldwide across industries, geographies, and GCC lifecycle stages.

The company has also signed a multiyear transformation and managed services agreement with global life and pensions insurer Canada Life. The partnership will support the modernisation of Canada Life's IT infrastructure services across its European businesses.

The company did not disclose the financial details, but said it is a multimillion-euro AI-powered services transformation deal.

HC strikes down one-time spectrum charge on telcos

MUMBAI, PTI: In a relief to telecom firms Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, the Bombay High Court on Monday quashed the Centre's 2012 decision to impose a one-time spectrum charge for spectrum held above 6.2 MHz from 2008 onwards, questioning its source of power to make such a call.

A bench of Justices Manish Pitale and Shreeram Shirsat also set aside the demand notices issued by the Centre seeking recovery of OTSC (one-time spectrum charge), while noting that the government has been unable to show any source of power to issue such a decision and the consequent demand notices. The bench observed the government, under the garb of public interest, has acted beyond the term of contract/licence between it and the telcos and has been unable to identify any source of power to issue the impugned decisions.

"We find that the government has not been able to justify its unilateral action of issuing the decision within the four corners of the terms and conditions of the contract/licence agreements or the relevant statutory provision and therefore the retrospective effect demonstrates it illegitimacy, rendering the same unsustainable and liable to be set aside," the court noted.

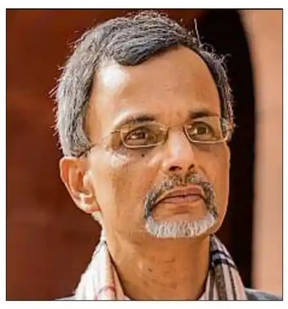
The two companies argued the Centre has no power to impose such OTSC and that, too, retrospectively under the provisions of the Telegraph Act.

On November 8, 2012, the Union Cabinet took a decision that one-time charge would be levied for spectrum held beyond 6.2 MHz from July 2008 onwards.

Financial records of local bodies fragmented, incomplete, says CEA

Adds fin panel couldn't rely on state commissions' data

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS



V Anantha Nageswaran

The 16th Finance Commission, which outlined the guidelines on Centre-state fiscal relations for the five-year period beginning April 1, 2026, could not rely on the State Finance Commissions' (SFC) data due to poor quality, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Monday.

He said successive Finance Commissions have voiced concerns over the poor quality of SFCs' dataset.

"The 16th Finance Commission puts it very plainly: It has been unable to use State Finance Commissions' reports for framing its recommendations because those reports are too heterogeneous in approach and too thin in analytical rigour," Nageswaran said.

"That is a very serious indictment. It reflects, more than anything else, a data failure," he added.

Nageswaran made these remarks at an event to release a report on datasets for State Finance Commissions.

The State Finance Commissions are constitutional bodies mandated to review the financial position of Panchayati Raj Institutions and to recommend principles governing the devolution of financial resources to local governments. It is constituted by state governments every five years.

Nageswaran said local body data is often incomplete and does not exist in usable forms. "Different departments hold information in silos that do not talk to each other. Accounting standards vary across states, making comparisons difficult," he added.

The 16th Finance Commission report, which was tabled in Parliament on February 1, noted, "Reports of the SFCs have lacked uniformity in the approach adopted, periods covered and the quality of data and analyses."

"Time periods of appointments of SFCs by different states have also differed markedly. As a result, the past FCs have been unable to base their recommendations on the SFC reports. This commission too has faced these difficulties and has been unable to base its recommendations on the reports of SFCs," the commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya, noted.

In response to concerns raised by Panagariya, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj had constituted a committee on "Datasets for State Finance Commissions".

The committee has recommended establishment of permanent SFC cells in every state.

"Although transfers from states to Panchayats and Municipalities are embedded within state budgets, they are not segregated under uniform accounting heads, making cross-state comparison difficult. There is a need for standard accounting heads to be notified to capture all categories of transfers to local bodies, thereby enabling greater consistency across states," it said.

The committee has also called for a performance audit of local bodies finances by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

It noted that the CAG had previously conducted such audits in Goa and Karnataka.

"The effective functioning of SFCs is a cornerstone of deepening fiscal decentralisation and ensuring financial autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions," noted the report released by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Rupee declines 43 paise to close at 95.61 against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 43 paise to settle at 95.61 against the US dollar on Monday, pressured by elevated crude prices and the strength of the American currency in the overseas market due to higher risk aversion amid escalating geopolitical tensions.

Forex traders said the USD/INR pair erased most of the previous trading session's gains on risk aversion in global markets. Further, a sharp jump in crude prices and a rise in the dollar index dented investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 95.35, moved between the high of 95.15 and the low of 95.75 against the greenback in intraday trade.

The domestic unit finally ended the session at 95.61, registering a loss of 43 paise from its previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.16, up 0.09%.

Brent crude was trading higher by 3.94% at $96.76 per barrel in futures trade.

MYSURU CITY CORPORATION, MYSURU
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division,
VVWW Campus, K.R.S. Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru- 570 020.

TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-04/2026-27 **Date:** 04.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION-04
(Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2026-27 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation.

Details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Total Works	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical Bid Opening Date	Financial Bid Opening Date
1	Executive Engineer (Electrical)	10	Refer KPPP Portal				

Note: Any further Changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurment portal only and will not release any paper notification.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/275/SA/2026-27

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No: BDA/DCF/139/2026-27 Date:08.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bangalore Development Authority, completing 50 years is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. In this background, Tender Process Schedule is as below for the work of planting 15 lakh plants on 27th June, 2026 in partnership with private entities in available places across Bengaluru City.

Sl. No.	Name of the work and Location	Tender estimate amount	EMD (Rs.in lakhs)	Tender Indent No.
1	Supply of 8"x12" sized 3.0 lakhs Shrubs, RET Shrubs and Medicinal Native Plants including Loading, Transportation and Unloading to multiple planting sites for June 27th 2026 1.5 Million Planting Initiative by BDA for the year 2026-27	1,38,00,000.00	2,07,000.00	BDA/ 2026-27/ SE0104
2	Supply of 8"x12" sized 5 lakhs Common Native Tree Species including Loading, Transportation and Unloading to multiple planting sites for June 27th 2026 1.5 Million Planting Initiative by BDA for the year 2026-27	2,80,00,000.00	4,20,000.00	BDA/ 2026-27/ SE0107
3	Supply of 8"x12" sized 7.5 lakhs Uncommon rare, Endangered and Threatened Native Species including Loading, Transportation and Unloading to multiple planting sites for June 27th 2026 1.5 Million Planting Initiative by BDA for the year 2026-27	5,17,50,000.00	7,76,250.00	BDA/ 2026-27/ SE0106

Sl. No.	Details		Date
1	Date of Tender Availability		08.06.2026
2	Last date for submission of objections regarding the Tender		15.06.2026 up to 3.00 PM
3	Last date for submission of Tender		16.06.2026 up to 3.00 PM
4	Opening of Tender	Technical Bid	17.06.2026 at 3.10 PM
		Financial Bid	After Scrutiny of Technical Bids
5	In case of the Tender process not happening/Bid not received on the said date, Last date and time for submission of Tender of 2nd call		23.06.2026 up to 5.00 PM
6	Opening of Tender	Technical Bid	24.06.2026 at 3.10 PM
		Financial Bid	After Scrutiny of Technical Bids

(Related to the 2nd call of Tender, separate Tender Notice will not be published)

For taking up the said works, Eligible Contractors registered with the Forest Department can view the details through e-portal of GoK https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further details it is requested to contact the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Banagalore Development Authority, Bengaluru during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, BDA, Bengaluru.

Sensex tanks 719 points

MUMBAI, PTI: Sensex and Nifty slumped nearly 1% on Monday, following a massive sell-off in global equities and rise in crude prices. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 719.08 points, or 0.97%, to settle at 73,524.26. The 50-share NSE Nifty fell 243.70 points, or 1.04%, to 23,123.

Innefu Labs raises $30 mn in Series B funding

BENGALURU, DHNS: Innefu Labs, an AI-driven firm specialising in national and cybersecurity, has raised $30 million from Panthera Growth Partners.

Founded in 2010 by Tarun Wig and Abhishek Sharma, the company has been at the forefront of creating indigenous platforms and multi-modal fusion systems currently deployed across defence, intelligence, law enforcement, revenue intelligence, and large enterprise clients.

The capital injection, completed through a combination of primary and secondary transactions from Panthera's second fund, positions Innefu for an IPO and accelerates its push into international markets after its initial successful forays in West Asia.

The proceeds will fund Innefu's next phase of scaling and global expansion, alongside DeepTech R&D anchored in its AI-first, sovereign capabilities.

Immuneel Therapeutics bags Rs 100 cr in Series B

BENGALURU, DHNS: Integrated cell and gene therapy platform Immuneel Therapeutics has closed a Rs 100 crore Series B financing. The round saw participation from new investors, including Singularity AMC, Rainmatter by Zerodha, and several high-net-worth individuals, alongside support from existing investors, including Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Eight Roads Ventures, and F-Prime Capital.

The financing will fund key strategic priorities: Scaling Immuneel's GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) manufacturing capacity, advancing its next-generation DeepTech cell and gene therapy pipeline toward clinical milestones, supporting the commercialisation of Qartemi, and accelerating international market entry across APAC and West Asia.

We don't even know where LIC's office is: Rajesh Exports chief

NEW DELHI, PTI

With Rajesh Exports facing regulatory pressure and concerns about LIC's exposure to the beleaguered gold jewellery firm, Chairman Rajesh Mehta has distanced himself from the insurer's investment decisions, arguing that ordinary retail shareholders stand to gain regardless of how the situation plays out.

Rajesh Mehta

"LIC has not purchased the shares yesterday or last year. LIC's purchases are over a period of time, approximately 20 years. These shares have been taken by LIC from the open market, from the stock market," Mehta told *PTI* in an interview.

Currently, LIC holds a 10.80% stake in Rajesh Exports.

Mehta was categorical that neither he nor other promoters had any role in LIC's accumulation of the stock. "No promoter has ever sold their shares to LIC. The company has never made any placement to LIC. By the buying of shares by LIC, the company or the promoters have never benefited in any manner," he said, adding that the company had no relationship with or knowledge of LIC's investment decisions.

"We do not even know where LIC's office is. We have no contact, no connection. This decision of buying shares through the secondary market is their own decision in a prudent commercial manner." Despite the sharp erosion in Rajesh Exports' share price, Mehta expressed confidence, based on his own assessment, that LIC had not yet slipped into the red on its position.

The stock of Rajesh Exports Ltd has tumbled over 14% since June 3, and hit a new lower circuit limit of Rs 94.50 on Monday.

India-Eng T20I matches to start at 10 pm IST

LONDON, PTI: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has advanced the start time of all five T20 Internationals against India by an hour, with the matches now scheduled to begin at 10 pm IST to maximise television viewership in the subcontinent, according to a media report.

The five T20Is between the two sides were earlier slated for 11 pm IST (6:30 pm local time) start, but they have been moved an hour early after discussions with the broadcasters, reported ESPNCricinfo.

"Start times for England's home internationals are finalised after consultation between the ECB, venues, opposition boards, and domestic and overseas broadcasters - in this case, Sky Sports (UK) and the Sony Sports Network (India)," the report said.

India will also play a three-match ODI series during the tour for which all tickets have been sold out, the report said.

It remains to be seen if Virat Kohli is fit in time for the tour.

Tamim elected as BCB president

DHAKA, PTI: Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal was elected as the President of his country's Cricket Board here, becoming the youngest to get the position that he will hold for four years.

The election was held at the Sher-e Bangla National Stadium. Tamim, who became the 21st president of the BCB, garnered 73 votes from 75 councillors.

The 37-year-old has already served as the head of the ad-hoc committee that he took over in April after Islam was found guilty of corruption in a probe.

"There are a lot of things, loopholes, and if we all agree together (about constitutional reform) we will discuss them in the next AGM. This is not like a board of 12 or 13 people where one person says something and it is done.

"We have to deal with 1972 councillors. So they also have to agree. But for the betterment of Bangladesh cricket, if any constitutional changes are needed, we will definitely discuss and consider them," Tamim was quoted as saying by 'Cricbuzz' following the election on Sunday.

New-look India begin Asian Games build-up

ANTALYA, PTI: India will begin their preparations for the upcoming Asian Games with a completely revamped squad taking the field at the Archery World Cup Stage 3 beginning here on Tuesday.

The biggest talking point is the absence of star archer Deepika Kumari from the recurve women's team event, barely a month after she spearheaded India's stunning World Cup gold medal triumph in Shanghai, where the team upset Olympic champions South Korea and hosts China enroute to the title.

Following the Shanghai World Cup, the Archery Association of India (AAI) conducted selection trials for World Cup Stages 3 and 4 as well as the Asian Games.

The trials produced several surprises, with Deepika, her Olympian husband Atanu Das and reigning Asian Games compound champion Ojas Deotale all missing out the top-three spots.

With only three archers allowed per category at the Asian Games, Deepika and Atanu finished fourth in their respective trials.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Tri-Series: Sri Lanka A vs India A **(10:00 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

1st ODI: Bangladesh vs Australia **(10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FOOTBALL

Friendlies: Azerbaijan vs San Marino **(11:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1, SonyLIV**.

CRICKET ONE-OFF TEST

India complete demolition job

Suthar, Sundar fashion innings and 300-run win over Afghans

MADHU JAWALI
MULLANPUR, DHNS

The defeat was imminent and it was just a matter of how soon it would arrive. Just over half an hour after tea on the third day, Mohammad Saleem threw his wicket away, like many of his team-mates had done before him on the day, to signal India's innings and 300-run win in the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

Having resumed at 113/5, still trailing India by 451 runs, Afghanistan's first innings folded at 152 in 58.4 overs as Manav Suthar (6/22) became the 10th Indian bowler and seventh spinner to bag five or more wickets in his debut Test. With a handsome 412-run lead, it needed to be seen whether India would enforce follow-on or bat again to get some more red-ball batting practice. But given the chance to wrap up the game on the third day itself under searing conditions, the hosts asked Afghanistan to bat again.

Suthar was handed the new ball to see if the left-armer could extend his magic to the second innings. It was not to be, but Washington Sundar (4/36) and Kuldeep Yadav (3/30) came to the party to restrict Afghanistan's innings to 112 in 35.5 overs. Injured all-rounder Sharafuddin Ashraf didn't come to bat. While Afghanistan's first innings was about Suthar's skill and success, the second innings was all about their batters' lack of temperament to bat time in testing conditions against a quality attack. Batter after batter threw their wickets away as if they were chasing a stiff target in a T20 match, as 14 wickets fell in just over two and a half sessions.

On a day that continued to see DRS mistakes from either side, Suthar once again stole the limelight to return a match haul of 7/62, which deservedly fetched him the player of the match honours to make his international debut even more memorable. The 23-year-old is only the third Indian debutant to win the PoM award after Pravin Amre and R Ashwin from the recorded time.

With no disrespect to Afghanistan as a Test outfit, for India this game was just an opportunity to get into Test groove with a place in the World Test Championship final at stake.

Coming off a lengthy white-ball assignments from the beginning of the year, it was crucial for India to get some red-ball practice under their belt. While Afghanistan aren't nearly as formidable as their opponents over the course of next six months, a match-time against a Test side is always more valuable than several practice sessions. Given India's spin struggles in recent days at home, batters needed to gain some confidence against the turning ball given their next series, two Test matches, is in Sri Lanka which is expected to roll out spin-friendly tracks if not rank turners.

Indian players celebrate with the trophy after defeating Afghanistan in the one-off Test in Mullanpur on Monday. PTI

India's innings & 300-run win against Afghanistan is their biggest Test win in terms of margin

Deficit	Team	Venue
Inns & 300 runs	**Afg**	**New Chandigarh, 2026**
Inns & 272 runs	WI	Rajkot, 2018
Inns & 262 runs	**Afg**	**Bengaluru, 2018**

Manav Suthar registered the third-best innings figures for an Indian on Test debut

Player	Team	Venue
N Hirwani (8-61)	**WI**	**Chennai, 1988**
N Hirwani (8-75)	WI	Chennai, 1988
M Suthar (6-33)	**Afg**	**New Chandigarh, 2026**

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

SCORE BOARD

INDIA (I Innings): 564/8 decl
AFGHANISTAN (I Innings; O/n: 113/5):
Malik c Siraj b Suthar 16 (18b, 3x4)
Atal b Prasidh 17 (27b, 3x4)
Gurbaz c Sudharsan b Suthar 12 (40b, 1x4, 1x6)
Rahmat b Suthar 60 (135b, 9x4, 1x6)
Shahidi lbw Prasidh 20 (48b, 4x4)
Zazai c&b Suthar 3 (26b)
Omarzai b Prasidh 0 (10b)
Ashraf c Pant b Suthar 11 (32b, 2x4)
Kharoti (not out) 4 (12b)
Saleem lbw Suthar 0 (4b)
Rahman c Pant b Washington 6 (3b, 1x6)
Extras (NB-2, W-1) 3
Total (all out, 58.4 overs) 152
Fall of wickets: 1-28 (Malik), 2-40 (Malik), 3-62 (Gurbaz), 4-98 (Shahidi), 5-113 (Zazai), 6-118 (Omarzai), 7-142 (Ashraf), 8-143 (Rahmat), 9-143 (Saleem).
Bowling: Siraj 9-2-29-0 (w-1), Prasidh 11-2-37-3 (nb-1), Suthar 22-10-33-6, Kuldeep 10-1-32-0 (nb-1), Washington 6.4-1-21-1.
AFGHANISTAN (II Innings, following on):
Atal c Prasidh b Washington 42 (80b, 5x4, 1x6)
Malik lbw Siraj 8 (40b)
Gurbaz c Prasidh b Kuldeep 24 (24b, 3x4, 1x6)
Rahmat c Suthar b Washington 13 (16b, 1x6)
Shahidi c Gill b Washington 5 (10b, 1x4)
Zazai lbw Suthar 8 (19b, 1x4)
Omarzai c Kuldeep b Washington 4 (5b)
Kharoti c Suthar b Kuldeep 6 (11b, 1x6)
Rahman (not out) 0 (11b)
Saleem c Sudharsan b Kuldeep 0 (1b)
Ashraf (absent injured)
Extras (NB-2) 2
Total (all out, 35.5 overs) 112
Fall of wickets: 1-42 (Malik), 2-74 (Gurbaz), 3-87 (Rahmat), 4-93 (Shahidi), 5-98 (Atal), 6-106 (Zazai), 7-106 (Omarzai), 8-112 (Kharoti), 9-112 (Saleem).
Bowling: Suthar 10-2-29-1, Prasidh 3-0-6-0, Kuldeep 7.5-1-30-3 (nb-1), Siraj 4-1-11-1, Washington 11-4-36-4 (nb-1).
Result: India won the one-off Test by an innings and 300 runs.
PoM: Manav Suthar

In Manav Suthar, India finally have a left-arm spinner in the classical mould -- one with a diagonal run-up and a textbook side-arm action. PTI

Suthar offers promise of bright future

Joshi rates the spinner's ability to bowl stock ball well highly

MADHU JAWALI
MULLANPUR, DHNS

Skill sets are paramount to becoming a successful Test bowler. Equally crucial, however, are the patience and discipline required to thrive in the longest format. It is still early days for Manav Suthar in Test cricket. He is only one Test old, and that came against minnows Afghanistan, who lacked many of the qualities the format demands. The 23-year-old, however, displayed those attributes in abundance, offering plenty of promise for the future.

A seven-wicket haul in the match, including figures of 6/33 in the first innings, on debut is the stuff of dreams. The fact that only 10 Indians have taken five wickets on Test debut since Mohammad Nissar's 5/93 against England in 1932 underlines the significance of the achievement. At the same time, even fewer have gone on to live up to the initial hype. That is where Suthar's challenge lies, but early impressions suggest he possesses the right attitude to endure the rigours of Test cricket.

The biggest lesson from the match, Suthar said, was that consistency is everything.

"You have to keep bowling in the same area over and over again. I think that's the most important thing in Test cricket," Suthar said during the presentation ceremony.

Discipline: tick.

"It's a format that demands a lot of patience. That's what I've learned -- keep being patient, stick to your plans and keep hitting the right areas consistently."

Patience: tick.

The ball came nicely out of his hand, was generously tossed up, drifted beautifully and turned obediently. Suthar bowled this delivery on a loop throughout the match.

"Under pressure, the best ball you can bowl is your stock ball," former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi told *DH*. The current spin coach at the Centre of Excellence, who has worked with Suthar in the India A setup, believes the youngster relies primarily on his stock delivery, although he also possesses a good arm ball.

Sunil Joshi

"Initially, my focus was on understanding how the wicket was playing. That's why I wanted to rely on my stock delivery as much as possible," Suthar concurred after the match.

"Once I understood that the wicket was a little slow and required some variation in pace, I started making those adjustments. But the main idea was always to make my stock ball as effective as possible."

Suthar has been part of the India A setup for some time, and Joshi had the opportunity to work with him during the Australia and South Africa series last year. The talent was unmistakable, but it needed some refinement. Chief among the areas that required attention was his run-up.

"Look at his front-foot stride now and how far behind the line he lands," Joshi began. "He used to go over the line. We worked on ensuring that he bowled from behind it, which helps generate better drift, improved revolutions on the ball and a more effective arc.

"He is much more consistent with his run-up now. It has a nice rhythm, and he completes it in one smooth flow, with every aspect working in perfect sync."

For the first time in a while, India have a left-arm spinner in the classical mould -- one with a diagonal run-up and a textbook side-arm action.

"He has started running diagonally now. Earlier, he used to run in straight, but he is much more comfortable going through the line of the umpire and batsman. As a spinner, you need to be side-arm because it helps you create the perfect angles."

Suthar has enjoyed the ideal start to his Test career. However, once veteran Ravindra Jadeja returns to the squad, he may not be the preferred choice, with senior spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar more likely to get the nod. What works in his favour, though, is that he possesses the patience to wait and the discipline to keep honing his skills.

Sindhu seeks to end title wait

SYDNEY, PTI

Two-time Olympic-medallist PV Sindhu will look to end a prolonged title drought, while rising star Ayush Shetty will spearhead India's men's singles campaign at the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, seeded third, enters the tournament with a favourable draw as she searches for her first BWF World Tour title since winning the Syed Modi International in 2024.

The former world champion's best result this season remains a semifinal finish at the Malaysia Open in January.

The 30-year-old will open against Peru's Ines Lucia Castillo and is likely to face the winner of the first-round clash between fellow Indian Isharani Barua and China's Han Qian Xi.

Sindhu comes into the event after a round-of-16 finish at the Indonesia Open, where she lost to Paris Olympics champion and old nemesis and world No. 1 An Se-young of South Korea.

If she progresses as expected, Sindhu could run into Japan's world No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi in the semifinals.

The Indian enjoys a slender 15-13 head-to-head advantage over the Japanese star. A potential final could pit her against second seed and world No. 8 Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand, against whom Sindhu leads 7-5.

PV Sindhu

India will have a sizeable presence in the women's singles draw as Tanvi Sharma faces fifth-seeded Chiu Pin-Chian of Chinese Taipei, while Malvika Bansod takes on Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei.

Anmol Kharb has been handed a tough opener against former world champion and fourth seed Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.

Aakarshi Kashyap faces Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching, while Tanya Hemanth takes on USA's Ishika Jaiswal.

In men's singles, world No. 20 Ayush Shetty, seeded sixth, will begin against a qualifier.

Rahi pips Manu in Asiad trials

DEHRADUN, PTI: Former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat produced a commanding performance to win the women's 25m pistol finals, outwitting double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker in the National Selection Trials 4 being organised to finalise India's Asian Games shooting squad here on Monday.

Rahi, an Olympian, looked in control throughout the final and finished with 37 hits to comfortably take the top spot. Bhaker settled for silver with 35 hits, while Karnataka's Divya TS claimed bronze with 29 hits.

The T4 Rifle/Pistol trials are crucial from an Asian Games perspective, with 15 men and as many women shooters set to make the cut.

India warm up with massive win over West Indies

CARDIFF, PTI: Bharti Fulmali, Shreyanka Patil **(in pic)** and Radha Yadav starred as India crushed the West Indies by 26 runs in their first warm-up match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Fulmali made a fine unbeaten 56 to power India to 179 for eight after batting first. In reply, the West Indies could only manage 153 for eight with Deandra Dottin making 49.

Dottin struck eight fours in her 44-ball knock but the rest of the Caribbean batters could not capitalise on the strong start provided by Dottin and Shemaine Campbelle (25).

The WI collapsed from 81 for two in the 11th over to 153 for eight towards the end as Indian bowlers dominated the final half of the second innings to impose a commanding win.

India tried only six bowling options in their first warm-up match which had Shreyanka claiming 4-0-36-4 and Radha returning 4-0-25-3 to claim the majority of the wickets.

India will take on the hosts England in their final warm-up match here before taking on Pakistan in their T20 World Cup opener on June 14.

Brief scores: India: 179/8 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 29, Smriti Mandhana 39, Yastika Bhatia 36 n.o., Bharti Fulmali 56 n.o.; Afy Fletcher 4-23) bt West Indies: 153/8 in 20 overs (Deandra Dottin 49, Shemaine Campbelle 25 retd hurt; Radha Yadav 3-25, Shreyanka Patil 4-36) by 26 runs.

Kranthi ton sets tone for Bangalore Occasionals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kranthi Kumar's 132-ball 128 proved decisive in Bangalore Occasionals 38-run victory over Chintamani Sports Association in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for Group I-I, II, III division and qualifiers from 4th and 5th division clubs here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Kranthi's knock, along with Suraj Ahuja's 55, took 283/8 in 50 overs while Ajay Bhide (3/49) was the pick among Chintamani bowlers.

In response, Chintamani could only reach 247/7 as Naveen MG (4/25) did crucial damage to their chase.

Brief scores: Bangalore Occasionals: 283/8 in 50 overs (Kranthi Kumar 128, Suraj Ahuja 55, Shreesha S Achar 26; Ajay Bhide 3-49, Vidhur Reddy CV 2-55, Kuldeep Singh Purohit 2-56) bt Chintamani Sports Association: 245/7 in 50 overs (Pranav R Babu 58, Revanth Bairy 57, Aaron C Christie 54; Naveen MG 4-25).
Palar SC, Kolar: 247 all out in 42.3 overs (Chiranth D 73, Preetesh 56, Ambresh K 50, Ritesh Bhatkal 37; Shreyas Gopal 4-50, Bhimrao Navale 3-13, Nischith N Rao 2-24) lt to Swastic Union (1): 247 all out in 50 overs (A Rohan Patil 57, Bhimrao Navale 53, Sanmay Rudrawadi 44; Gagan L 2-43, Ambresh K 2-14) in Super Over.
Mount Joy: 220/9 in 50 overs (Samarth Srinivas 64, Gagandeep K 27; Yashovardhan Parantap 3-43, Samit Dravid 2-32) lt to Vijaya Cricket Club: 221/4 in 41.5 overs (Tushar Singh 96, Dhruv P 42, Samit Dravid 30; Chiranth S 2-56).
Herons CC: 301 all out in 50 overs (Surendra Rathore 100, Jullian Edward 42, Jayanth MR 39, Mohammed Waseef M 32, Sanjay Ashwin C 28, Prajwal Pavan 25; Kumar LR 5-54, Vidwath Kaverappa 2-47, Samyak Vellalore 2-49) bt Sir Syed Cricketers: 152/6 in 34.5 overs (Mohith BA 53, Nikin Jose SJ 31; Aditya Mani 3-29, Bhargav S 2-28) via VJD method.
Cambridge CC: 308/7 in 50 overs (Shubhang Hegde 116, Macneil H Noronha 111, Gourav K 30; Sourab Muttur 4-52, Suhas Purushotham 2-51) bt Jayanagar Cricketers: 150 all out in 34.4 overs (Saharsh M Reddy 49, S Chaitanya 42; Advith M Shetty 3-37, Shubhang 2-21, Macneil 2-10).
Dooravani Cricketers (1): 192 all out in 45 overs (Keerthi M 85; Arbind Kumar Rai 2-37, Gowtham Sagar 2-16, Lankesh KS 2-28) lt to Coles Cricket Club: 193/3 in 23.2 overs (Chethana LR 90, Yuvraj A 70; Vineeth B 2-55).
Social Cricketers: 306 all out in 49.5 overs (Aneesh KV 106, Vyshak V 56, Aadarsh Prajwal S 46, Shaun T Joseph 32; Karthikeya KP 5-47, Santokh Singh 3-46) lt to Vultures CC: 240/6 in 30 overs (Nischal D 77, Karthikeya KP 62; Shreevathsa R Acharya 2-23, Rohan N 2-19) via VJD method.
Swastic Union (2): 309/9 in 50 overs (Sujay S 74, Hardik Raj 55, Vijaya Raj B 36, Aneeshwar Gautam 30, Manvanth Kumar L 28, Mohsin Khan 27, Vishal Onat 26; Maribasava Gowda 2-47, Karna Surya Vamshi 2-61, Shivakumar BU 2-49, Pranav Bhatia 2-54) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers: 74 all out in 18.5 overs (Manvanth Kumar L 4-36, Pranav NV 3-8, Sathwik S Sairaj 2-20).

Vultures edge out Sir Syed

BENGALURU, DHNS: Annapurna Bhosale joint top-scored with a 41 while Chinmayi Shivanand bagged a three-wicket haul as Vultures Cricket Club edged out Sir Syed Cricketers by one run in a thrilling quarterfinal game of the KSCA senior women's T20 tournament here.

Riding on Annapurna's 41, Vultures posted a modest 104/7 in 20 overs. To defend it, they needed a strong collective show and the likes of Chinmayi (3/19), Aadya (2/3) and Sahana S Pawar (2/20) delivered to bowl out Sir Syed Cricketers for 103 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Vultures Cricket Club: 104/7 in 20 overs (Prakruthi N Gopalkrishna 27, Annapurna Bhosale 41; Komal 2-11) bt Sir Syed Cricketers: 103 all out in 20 overs (Tanushree M 41; Sahana S Pawar 2-20, Chinmayi Shivanand 3-19, Aadya 2-3).
Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur: 35 all out in 13.1 overs (Prathiksha C 2-6, Monika D 2-7, Saanvi Pramod Iyer 2-2) lt to Coles Cricket Club: 36 no loss in 3.2 overs.
Palar Sports Club, Kolar: 246/5 in 20 overs (Myra Jain 33, Vrinda 65, BG Tejashwini 44, Prathyusha Challuru 38; Hamsinee Arun 2-48, Novinaa T 3-37) bt Minerva Cricket Club: 53/9 in 20 overs (Priya Chavan 2-17, Prathyusha Challuru 3-8).
Friends Union Cricket Club (1): 200/3 in 20 overs (Shubha S 26, Krishika Reddy 45, Chandasi K 89) bt Young Lions Club: 90/6 in 20 overs (Pranathi KS 48; Ananya Hegde 2-11).
Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 177/1 in 20 overs (Advika 41, Andrea Michelle Lobo 96) bt Wilson Garden Cricket Club: 59 all out in 14.3 overs (Lavanya M 2-13, Vaishnavi Beerappa Hunashyala 3-5, Aaradhya Mallik 4-3).
Cambridge Cricket Club: 110/5 in 20 overs (Rimjhim Shukla 54; Poojitha G 2-15) lt to Vijaya Cricket Club: 111/5 in 11.4 overs (Mansi Satish More 50, Shreya B Pote 25; Sharvari R Shetty 2-46, Ganavi R 3-3).
Rajajinagar Cricketers: 99 all out in 19 overs (Niki Prasad 37, Lavanya Chalana 27; Subhra Majumder 2-19, Deeksha J 2-25, Maria Francica 2-15, Nandani Chauhan 2-5) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (2): 103/1 in 12.1 overs (Yashika K Gowda 48, Nandani Chauhan 38).
Jawans Cricket Club: 83/7 in 20 overs (Nesara Saptha Girish 29; Rameshwari 2-9, Pavitra 3-14) lt to South End Sports Club: 84/2 in 10.5 overs (Monica C Patel 44, Aditi R 25).

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Yamal set to play Spain's opener on June 15

MEXICO CITY, AFP: Teenage Barcelona star Lamine Yamal and fellow winger Nico Williams will be available for Spain's World Cup opener against debutants Cape Verde on June 15, coach Luis de la Fuente said on Sunday.

Yamal and Athletic Bilbao's Williams both missed the end of the club season with hamstring injuries and their imminent returns will be a big boost to the European champions.

Osasuna winger Victor Munoz is also expected to be fit for Spain's opening game in Atlanta, although none travelled to Mexico for Monday's friendly with Peru and instead remained at their training camp in the United States.

"We regret that they are not here with us, but the medical and physical conditioning staff advised them to stay there," De la Fuente said. "All three should be available for the next match... they are progressing well in their recovery and are doing very well."

Ederson to replace Wesley

NEWARK (USA), AFP: The Brazilian football federation (CBF) announced on Sunday that injured full-back Wesley will be replaced in the World Cup squad by midfielder Ederson.

Wesley suffered the injury in Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Egypt before leaving the field in tears. Atalanta's 26-year-old Ederson made the last of his three international appearances in March 2025.

France wary of tricky group

Dangerous Norway, Senegal pose a serious threat to Les Blues in Group I

PARIS, AFP

Blessed with world-class talents like (from second left) Kylian Mbappe, Marcus Thuram, Adrien Rabiot and Bradley Barcola, France are one of the favourites to lift a third World Cup. AFP

Winners in 2018 and runners-up in 2022, France arrive at this World Cup as one of the leading contenders, but the planet's top-ranked team face stiff tests against Senegal and Norway in Group I, which also features outsiders Iraq.

Les Bleus have won the World Cup twice and lost two further finals on penalties in the last seven editions, including last time in Qatar when they were beaten by Argentina in a shoot-out after Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick in an epic contest.

France now go into their last tournament under long-serving coach Didier Deschamps, who has been in charge since 2012 and is expected to be replaced by Zinedine Zidane.

Deschamps is wary of a tough group and France have stumbled as favourites before -- they arrived at the 2002 World Cup as holders and were eliminated in the group stage without scoring a goal.

Back then they lost their opening game to Senegal in Seoul, and they will hope history doesn't repeat itself when they play the Lions of Teranga in their first fixture this time, at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on June 16.

"It is one of the most difficult groups, if not the hardest," said Deschamps.

"We have a fraternal relationship with Senegal because there are a lot of dual-national players who have played for French clubs and know the French players. And Norway are one of the very good European teams."

2 DAYS to GO

France have a fearsome attack that is the envy of world football, led by captain Mbappe -- top scorer in La Liga this season with Real Madrid -- and reigning Ballon d'Or Ousmane Dembele, but also featuring the likes of Michael Olise and Rayan Cherki.

Senegal's 2002 win over France sparked a best-ever run for them to the quarterfinals, and they have ambitions of another deep foray. Their build-up has been overshadowed by the fallout from January's Africa Cup of Nations final, when they beat Morocco 1-0 after extra time.

But the chaos in that game, when Senegal players walked off the pitch in protest at a late penalty awarded to the hosts, led to Pape Thiaw's team later being stripped of their title by the Confederation of African Football. They have appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Senegal's squad is still led by Sadio Mane, who is now 34 and missed the last World Cup with injury. Norway are back on the scene, reaching their first World Cup since 1998 and first major tournament since Euro 2000.

Their success under coach Stale Solbakken has been centred around Erling Haaland, the 25-year-old Manchester City superstar who is one of the best pure number nines of the 21st century.

Norway start against Iraq in Boston and play Senegal at the MetLife Stadium before returning to Boston to play France.

That showdown will see the Premier League's top scorer Haaland take on Mbappe. Haaland scored 16 goals in eight qualifiers, including wins home and away against Italy.

He is ably supported by the likes of Arsenal playmaker Martin Odegaard and Atletico Madrid centre-forward Alexander Sorloth.

"We believe that we have a strong squad...that has achieved great results over a long period of time," said Solbakken.

Those three sides will all aim to progress, with the eight best third-placed teams also reaching the last 32.

Simply being there is an enormous achievement for Iraq, who last graced the World Cup in 1986.

Croatia head to Americas on a high

VARAZDIN (CROATIA), REUTERS

Croatia substitute Mario Pasalic grabbed a stoppage-time winner to edge neighbours Slovenia 2-1 in their friendly international on Sunday and head to the World Cup on a winning note.

It was the final warm-up game for the Croats, who have reached at least the final four of the last two World Cups, before departing for the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States. They will open their campaign against England in Dallas on June 17.

Captain Luka Modric, playing possibly his last home international, fittingly scored to give Croatia an early second-half lead, but a horror back pass allowed Slovenia substitute Andraz Sporar to equalise in the 83rd minute.

Pasalic's volleyed effort three minutes into stoppage time came as a relief for the Croatians, who will consider themselves fortunate to have won the game.

The 40-year-old Modric cleverly placed a shot from the edge of the area into the net in the 51st minute after being set up by a square pass by Perisic. It was Modric's 29th goal in 198 appearances.

Norway held

Norway captain Martin Odegaard equalised 15 minutes from time to force a 1-1 draw with Morocco in their World Cup warm-up international on Sunday.

Morocco had been ahead from the seventh minute when Brahim Diaz thundered home a shot from the edge of the penalty area, but Norway fought their way back and could have won the clash with the North Africans, who were semifinalists at the last World Cup in Qatar four years ago.

Norway shrugged off the hot conditions and applied sustained pressure near the end of the game, with Kristian Thorstvedt inches from grabbing a winner with nine minutes left as he put his header from Julian Ryerson's free kick narrowly wide.

Two goals from Jhon Arias gave Colombia a 2-0 win over Jordan in San Diego on Sunday.

Croatia's Mario Pasalic celebrates after scoring the winner against Slovenia during a friendly at the Stadion Varteks on Sunday. REUTERS

Young Dynamos FC post 7-0 win

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Mohan Raj and Ranjith Selvaraj netted a brace each as Young Dynamos FC trounced Devanahalli FC 7-0 in the BDFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: Group 4: Nationals FC: 2 (Kangbi Nohn 16th, 51st) bt JP Sports FC: 1 (Bheema N 14th)
Group 6: Indian Knights FC: 1 (Daniel D 28th) drew with Sporting Youths FC: 1 (Bheema N 14th); Shining Star FC: 3 (Vignesh V 2nd, 5th, Kishan HS 19th) bt ITC FC: 0.
Group 7: Young Dynamos FC: 7 (M Mohan Raj 6th, 43rd, Ranjith Selvaraj 15th, 25th, SM Kaurav Rithvik 27th, Mano Raja R 30th, Krishna Naresh Waghela 47th) bt Devanahalli FC: 0; RBI FC: 6 (Mark Adren LA 6th, 33rd, Emmanuel J 10th, Joshua Xavier 14th, Roal Roman Emendis 20th, 42nd) bt Chinnappa Garden FC: 0.
Teams in knockout stages: Gouthama FC, Jai Bharath Nagar FC, Rovers FC, Konkan FC, East West FC, Freedom FC, Young Dynamos FC, Rangers FC.

Akashat emerges Senior Max class champion

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Akashat Misra (Peregrine Racing), with two podium finishes, including a win, picked up sufficient points to emerge champion in the Senior Max class, as the third and final round of the Meco Meritus Cup karting concluded at the CoASTT Kartomania circuit in Coimbatore on Sunday.

Misra was placed third in Sprint Race-1 but he recovered well to win the Sprint Race-2 and finished the three-round Meritus Cup, a forerunner to the Rotax Max Class National Championship, with 85 points, ahead of Chennai's Shivaan Karthik (MSPORT) and Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) from Mumbai.

Zverev gunning for more glory

German delighted at finally having broken the Grand Slam duck

PARIS, AFP

Alexander Zverev said he hopes winning his first Grand Slam crown at the French Open will unblock the path to more major titles after years of near-misses and heartbreak on the biggest stage.

Zverev broke his major drought at the fourth time of asking by beating Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1 in the Roland Garros final on Sunday.

After painful past defeats in the title matches at the 2020 US Open, Roland Garros in 2024 and last year's Australian Open, Zverev was considered by many to be the best player never to have won a Grand Slam.

The 29-year-old joked it was "fine" if people now consider him "the worst player to win a Grand Slam" but that he "could not care less".

"Now no matter what happens, I will always be a Grand Slam champion, and nobody can take that away from me," Zverev added.

"To be honest, I'm a little bit drunk already, so I just repeat myself a little bit more than I'm used to. I'm just happy to be sitting next to this trophy."

The Tokyo Olympics gold medallist said having the Coupe des Mousquetaires in his possession would make his future attempts at winning more of tennis' biggest titles less burdensome, mentally.

"For sure this trophy helps the belief a lot," he said.

"That does give me some freedom. It does give me some -- maybe my mind will just be a little bit calmer when I play a final, meaning that even if I lose it, I will still be a Grand Slam champion.

"I think this trophy for me is very important, because if I would have lost this one, the self-belief would have gone down a lot. But now that I've won it, I feel like I can do it again."

However, Zverev admitted that the favourite tag he had seemed to carry serenely through most of the tournament did weigh on him during the final against world number 14 Cobolli.

"I was just very tight today. I honestly feel like I've managed the last two weeks extremely well, because with all the losses that happened early on with Jannik (Sinner) going out, with Novak (Djokovic) going out, I managed to stay composed, I managed to stay calm in my mind," he said.

"But then today I feel like I didn't manage so well."

Zverev revealed he experienced "mental cramps" during the match, but in the end they helped him get over the line after four hours and 16 minutes of battle on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I was a lot more nervous, which at some stage is also human, I think. That's why I say the cramps helped me in a way, because my mind let go," he explained.

"I started swinging more freely. I started hitting the ball a bit more aggressive. All of that, you know, that's because of the cramps. I couldn't focus on being tight anymore. I had to kind of let go. That's why I played the fifth set the way I did."

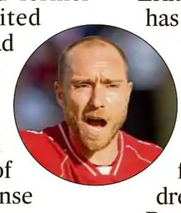
Germany's Alexander Zverev is confident the French Open success will spur him to add more Slams to his cabinet. REUTERS

Eriksen 'doing well' after collapsing

COPENHAGEN, AFP

Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen **(in pic)** is "doing well" after being admitted to hospital due to collapsing during Denmark's friendly against Ukraine, five years after suffering a cardiac arrest during the European Championships.

The 34-year-old former Manchester United midfielder, who had a type of pacemaker inserted after he collapsed in 2021, fell to the ground in the 64th minute of the match in Odense on Sunday.



Medical staff rushed onto the pitch while players from both teams gathered around him to shield the scene from television or smartphone cameras.

The referee called off the match and Eriksen was subsequently taken to hospital, having been shielded by both sets of players as he walked off the pitch.

"I want to let everyone know that I am doing well and that I am home with my family," Eriksen said in a social media post.

He said that receiving a shock from his ICD (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator) had had a "major impact" on him.

"I want to reassure everyone that this was (a) different situation from what happened in 2021," he said, adding that the device had done exactly what is was designed to do.

Eriksen said his "recovery has already started".

"For now, my focus is on recovering, spending time with my family, going on vacation, and playing football with my children," the footballer said.

Denmark's team doctor Morten Boesen said earlier on Monday that Eriksen had been "briefly unconscious" but that "the pacemaker responded as it should".

"I spoke to Christian this morning, and he is doing well," he said in comments posted on Instagram.

Boesen said that he and his medical team were in touch with the Danish national side's players.

"We are taking good care of the players and staff and are in regular contact with them."

Sports Minister asks AIFF, ISL clubs to form task force

NEW DELHI, PTI: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and ISL clubs to create a task force that would thrash out a "structured plan" for at least the next two seasons of the crisis-ridden league in a meeting here on Monday.

The deliberation session that lasted a couple of hours in the afternoon was "cordial", according to well-placed sources and the minister urged the clubs and the AIFF to work out an "amicable business model" for the 14-club Indian Super League (ISL).

"He has asked the AIFF and the ISL clubs to make this task force that would plan the league for the next two years and also commercial plan for it. He has asked them to do this as soon as possible and come back to him with an amicable business model," a well-placed said.

It was Mandaviya's intervention that made the 2025-26 season a reality, albeit truncated, after the clubs and the AIFF failed to resolve the financial crisis that was triggered by Reliance Group-backed FSDL's exit as commercial partner in December last year.

Stokes under investigation

LONDON, AFP

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Monday captain Ben Stokes and teammate Gus Atkinson are being investigated for breaking team rules in a nightclub incident after the first Test against New Zealand.

It is the latest controversy concerning the England team following a tour of Australia where the side was confronted with allegations of a drinking culture during a 4-1 Ashes series loss concluded in January.

"The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first Men's Test against New Zealand," the governing body said.

"Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson were present at a nightclub in the early hours of Monday morning when an incident took place.

"We are currently seeking further information, and an announcement regarding the squad for the second Test will be made in due course.

"The Cricket Regulator has been informed and we will provide a further update when possible."

Before the Ashes, Harry Brook was punched by a nightclub bouncer in Wellington on the eve of a one-day international against New Zealand.

Perez re-elected as Real Madrid president

MADRID, AFP: Florentino Perez has been re-elected president of Real Madrid by an overwhelming majority, paving the way for Jose Mourinho to return as manager.

The 79-year-old Perez, president for 23 years across two spells, took 65 percent of the votes to vanquish his 37-year-old challenger, Enrique Riquelme, the club announced late Sunday.

Florentino Perez

"We have won the elections and will continue working to keep winning titles," Perez said in his victory speech.

The 63-year-old Mourinho will return after last being in charge at the Santiago Bernabeu 13 years ago, with Madrid paying the Portuguese's current club, Benfica, a reported $17.25 million release fee.

"We will continue to take pride in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, the best stadium in the world," Perez said.

"Proud to have the best players in the world, proud to welcome back one of the best coaches in the world, a Madridista like Jose Mourinho."

Mourinho first joined Real Madrid in 2010, spending three seasons at the club.

Shashikesh suspended again

NEW DELHI, PTI: Sprinter Shashikesh Kumar has been handed a second three-year suspension by NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) for competing while serving a prior ban.

Shashikesh was earlier suspended for a three-year period from January 10, 2024 to January 9, 2027.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com